

Sudden Single Dad Stabilized and Supported

Positive Stories / Lessons Learned from HPRP: *Individual Success Story*

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| HPRP Grantee: | Erie County, NY |
| CoC Name and Number: | NY-508 – Buffalo/Erie County CoC |

Latest CoC Point-in-Time Count:

| | | | |
|---|-----|----------------------------|-----|
| Total persons in ES: | 382 | Total persons in TH: | 365 |
| Total persons in Safe Haven: | 13 | Total unsheltered persons: | 178 |
| Total persons, sheltered and unsheltered: | 938 | | |

Rob* was a single man who had recently celebrated three years of sobriety. He worked full-time during the week and plowed in the early hours of the morning in the winter. He was thrown into the position of full-time father when social services ordered the children's mother into rehab and awarded him custody; while he knew of their existence, he had not had much prior contact. Rob had grown up in and out of foster care due to his own alcoholic father and didn't want his children to experience the same.

He started the family in counseling and met with the kids' school to talk about their ADHD and poor attendance – but he was overwhelmed. Learning how to fix his daughter's hair each morning, sort out the healthy from unhealthy snacks, and monitor doctor, teacher, and friend appointments put a lot of pressure on him. He couldn't leave his kids alone at night, so he gave up the plowing job. He had already missed a lot of work during the court processes and afterwards during the summer because he lacked reliable day care. When he entered Tonawanda's HPRP, he was two months behind in rent.

HPRP first stabilized his housing by paying his arrears and keeping the family housed. We worked for several months on ways he could budget for monthly expenses and save extra for emergencies. HPRP

paid his rent while he caught up on his outstanding debts, and he began accessing resources for households with dependent children.

Rob exited HPRP after eight months, with a raise at work, past bills paid, and year-round subsidized child care from Social Security. His home life had stabilized as he developed a daily routine with the kids. He had reached out to some of his relatives for support, and the kids began supervised visits with their mom. Rob still has a hard time dealing with full-time parenthood, but he realizes his positive impact on his children: they're both doing better at school, a lot of their behavioral issues are waning, and his daughter sits still while he – successfully – braids her hair. Rob hasn't wavered in his commitment to them, and HPRP was the support he needed while collecting resources to strengthen himself as a father.

**Names have been changed for confidentiality.*

For more information, contact Linda Roberts, Belmont Housing Resources of WNY at 716-884-7791 x 156 or LAR@BelmontHousingWNY.org.