

HPRP Assistance Leads to Support for New Home, New Job and New Grandchild

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

HPRP Grantee:	City of Ft. Lauderdale
CoC Name and Number:	FL-601 - Ft Lauderdale/Broward County CoC

Latest CoC Point-in-Time Count:

Total persons in ES:	1,005	Total persons in TH:	1,493
Total persons in Safe Haven:	35	Total unsheltered persons:	1,268
Total persons, sheltered and unsheltered:	3,801		

A household without the resources to withstand a crisis can easily fall into homelessness. HPRP assistance – and the actions of concerned community members – helped Toni* overcome a potentially debilitating series of crises and avoid homelessness, and provided a home in which to welcome her first grandchild. Financial problems had taken a toll on Toni's marriage in the seven months since she and her husband lost their jobs. Her job search was slowed down by what would turn into a discrimination case for unlawful denial of unemployment benefits; her husband lost confidence and motivation after failing a background check on his first application. His single unemployment check stretched to cover three when Sarah*, Toni's daughter from a previous marriage and in the third trimester of her first pregnancy, moved in for her mother's support. The family did not last long emotionally or financially with these stressors. Accumulated rental arrears resulted in an eviction notice, and Toni and her husband decided to separate.

But with the eviction notice came the concern of their apartment's property manager. She had heard of tenants receiving HPRP financial assistance, and reached out to Toni with the contact information of one of Ft. Lauderdale's HPRP providers. Mother and daughter collected their eligibility documentation and

arrived at The Shepherd's Way with two deadlines before which to find housing and stabilize: an eviction in six days and a birth in thirty.

Their case manager rushed to process and verify their eligibility materials and Toni was on the phone the same day with new apartment complexes. In this second instance of one of Ft. Lauderdale's citizens' compassion making the difference in Toni's life, a new property manager she spoke to understood the urgency of her situation and committed his help. He identified an apartment that he thought would easily pass a habitability and lead-based paint inspection. He prioritized Toni's case with the landlord and pushed for a quick leasing, and within twenty-four hours, the landlord agreed to allow move-in with confirmation from The Shepherd's Way that Toni qualified for HPRP and that financial assistance was forthcoming.

Toni and Sarah relocated before being evicted. Sarah is busy interviewing for jobs in the last few weeks before her due date; Toni found full-time employment and is also receiving her back-owed unemployment. "She gave permission for her story to be shared," their case manager said, "because she sees it as a positive reflection of the work that was done." Toni's persistence finding an apartment and increasing her income, in combination with her case manager's swiftness and skill orienting Toni to HPRP and administering assistance, resulted in a relocation in record time. But her former property manager, new property manager and new landlord also worked on her side. Toni succeeded with HPRP with the combined outreach, understanding, and cooperation of those involved, a testimony to the tangible effects of a family's community support system during a housing crisis.

**Names have been changed for confidentiality.*

For more information, contact Mickey Singletary, The Shepherd's Way at (954) 835-5057 or msingletary@theshepherdsWay.org.