

HPRP Helps a Mother of Four Find a Home and Employment in Missouri

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

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| HPRP Grantee: | Missouri |
| CoC Name and Number: | MO-606 – Missouri Balance of State CoC |

Latest CoC Point-in-Time Count:

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|---|-------|----------------------------|-----|
| Total persons in ES: | 912 | Total persons in TH: | 552 |
| Total persons in Safe Haven: | 8 | Total unsheltered persons: | 552 |
| Total persons, sheltered and unsheltered: | 2,024 | | |

One morning in early June 2010, Mrs. Brown, a friend of the East Missouri Action Agency (EMAA), found a young woman and her four children outside of a convenience store in Bonne Terre, Missouri. They were huddled up close to the front of the building, seeking refuge from the pouring rain.

When the young woman was approached and asked if she needed help, she explained that her name was Amanda* and that she and her children had been dropped off at the Homeless Shelter in Bonne Terre the previous night by another family member. Amanda was a victim of domestic violence and had been given a room at the shelter. However, in the morning, Amanda had been surprised to learn that she and her children could not stay at the shelter during the day. As a condition for continued stay, the shelter required that residents actively search for employment, and return only after 5:00pm. After eating breakfast, Amanda and her children walked a mile in the rain to the convenience store so that Amanda could buy a newspaper to view the employment ads and use the pay phone. Not from the area, Amanda had no transportation and virtually no knowledge of where to look for work. She worried that with four children she would be unable to find a job that would accommodate her situation.

After gathering some information from Amanda, Mrs. Brown transported the family to EMAA's St. Francois County Outreach Office in Desloge. The EMAA Representative identified Amanda as a potential participant for HPRP rapid re-housing assistance, and told her that if she could locate a suitable rental unit in the area, EMAA may be able to provide her short-term rental assistance. Within a week, Amanda found a mobile home in Bonne Terre. EMAA was able to pay the security and utility deposits for the rental unit with HPRP funding, and Amanda was also certified for HPRP rental assistance. While supporting Amanda's housing costs, EMAA also provided her HPRP case management services, resulting in referrals to various charities that supplied the family with donated household goods and clothing. In addition, case managers worked with Amanda to enroll her in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits through the local Family Support Division Office.

By August, Amanda's children were enrolled in the North County School District, and Amanda began working for the owners of the mobile home court where she lived. She received HPRP rental assistance for a total of six months, after which time, she was able to begin paying her own rent.

Recently, a Housing Specialist followed up with Amanda. She still lives in the mobile home court and now manages the property for the owners. She earns additional money cleaning houses around town. She reported to the Housing Specialist that she and her children are very happy, and that she feels as if she has been given "a new lease on life." The family joined a local church where one of Amanda's daughters is serving as a youth captain.

Although Amanda may face challenges ahead raising four children on her own, her situation was stabilized in large part due to the specialized funding provided through HPRP. HPRP's short-term financial support enabled Amanda to maintain a stable residence while working with HPRP case managers to find employment and other benefits to help her get back on her feet.

**Names have been changed for confidentiality.*

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