

Homeless Success Stories

Mario Espinoza:

Mario Espinoza became homeless in 2016. Prior to becoming homeless, Mr. Espinoza lost his father and job during the same year. Mr. Espinoza was employed through a staffing agency; unfortunately, his hours were reduced, and he ultimately became unemployed. Mr. Espinoza also began experiencing severe depression and anxiety symptoms. Unable to provide for himself, Mr. Espinoza had no choice but to surrender the only place he called home, his apartment. Mr. Espinoza found refuge in the streets of Glendale. In December of 2019, Mr. Espinoza crossed paths with Ascencia's Outreach team and agreed to enroll in Ascencia's Outreach Program. He completed an intake application and went through an assessment. Mr. Espinoza's assigned Outreach Case Manager, Armando Lerma, created a housing plan for him, which he diligently followed. At the time, Mr. Espinoza was also offered a bed at Ascencia's shelter and as a shelter resident, Mr. Espinoza had a safe place to rest and had access to warm meals daily, access to showers, and case management and mental health therapy. Mr. Espinoza applied to the City's Continuum of Care rental assistance program (formerly Shelter Plus Care), a program very similar to the Section 8 Program, and was granted a housing voucher shortly after.

On May 4, 2020, Mario Espinoza was conditionally approved for a housing assistance voucher in the City of Glendale. He persistently sought available units throughout LA County. On July 23, 2020, Mr. Espinoza moved into a new unit. The City of Glendale is ending homelessness one person at a time. It takes a village - Ascencia's team, the City's Homeless Services team, and Landlords - to allow once homeless to enter into independent permanent housing and call it home.



Chu Family:

The City of Glendale has partnered with Family Promise of the Verdugos and awarded funding in July 2019 from the California Emergency Solutions & Housing (CESH) Programs in the amount of \$346,418 to pay for financial assistance and intensive case management for 16 homeless families. The CESH program, as authorized by SB850 and administered by

the State of California, Department of Housing and Community Development, has five primary activities: housing relocation and stabilization services (including rental assistance), operating subsidies for permanent housing, flexible housing subsidy funds, operating support for emergency housing interventions, and systems support for homeless services and housing delivery systems. Family Promise of the Verdugos has successfully placed 14 families to date, including the Chu family recently placed in housing.

Wesley Chu and his young daughter began experiencing homelessness late last year when Mr. Chu lost his job and became unemployed. Mr. Chu reached out to Family Promise in hopes to receive the support and assistance they urgently needed, and they did. Family Promise of the Verdugos' Rapid Re-Housing granted the Chu Family with motel vouchers and counseling. During this time, Mr. Chu was also persistently seeking employment; he wanted to make sure his daughter lived as much of normal life as possible. Family Promise's staff worked diligently with the Chu Family to attain housing. Fortunately, the Chu Family is now enrolled in the CESH Rapid Rehousing program, and on September 1, 2020, Mr. Chu received a key to his new apartment.



For homeless service in Glendale, please call (818) 548-3720 to speak with Ivet Samvelyan.