Benefiting Lives: Affordable Housing Helps People

All around our beautiful state of Colorado, there are beautiful people who are struggling to make ends meet. When they find an affordable place to call home, their lives are placed on a different trajectory. They can move from survive to thrive. Affordable housing brings hope and stability to communities all over.

VIOLA’S STORY:
For six years, Viola was homeless and living in a tent in the woods. She was disabled with a walker and worried constantly about her safety.

WHAT HAVING AN AFFORDABLE PLACE TO LIVE MEANS TO VIOLA:
Stable housing has given her safety. “[I used to] not know from one minute to the next if I was going to make it through the night.”

Viola lives in Grand Junction. This story was collected by Grand Junction Housing Authority.

RICHARD’S STORY:
Richard was living in an older condo, stretching to make payments and receiving financial support from his daughter. He was concerned that he was a burden to his family, his daughters and his grandchildren.

WHAT HAVING AN AFFORDABLE PLACE TO LIVE MEANS TO RICHARD:
“It means retaining my dignity and interacting positively in a positive community. It allows me to serve others and volunteer in the larger community!”

Richard is from Fort Collins. This story was collected by Legacy Fort Collins.

CARLOS’ STORY:
When Carlos was homeless, his entire income went to motels. Now, Carlos and his wife “can afford food and the little things in life that may not mean a lot to some people, but it means the world to [them] both.”

WHAT HAVING AN AFFORDABLE PLACE TO LIVE MEANS TO CARLOS:
“It is the best feeling in the world to wake up in morning and sit in my front room and drink coffee. We thank God for this... to be able to say ‘I have a home.’ No words can express how good living here feels to us both.”

Carlos is from Denver. This story was collected by Ross Management’s Empowerment Program.

LATASHA’S STORY:
Her background of homelessness meant that she was moving around different shelters, but now she comes home for work and church with a place to cook and rest. “I also have all my stuff in one place. It is nice to be stabilized.”

WHAT HAVING AN AFFORDABLE PLACE TO LIVE MEANS TO LATASHA:
“I’m not always stressed about having to spend all my funds on rent. I have peace of mind and security.”

Latasha is from Denver. This story was collected by Ross Management’s Empowerment Program.

LiveAffordablyColorado.org
BYNNY’S STORY:
Bynny and his mother had a tough time financially, eventually leading them to sleep in their car. Since moving in, Bynny and his mom “have been able to finally focus on [their] lives and prioritize goals with work and school.”

WHAT HAVING AN AFFORDABLE PLACE TO LIVE MEANS TO BYNNY:
“We’ve been able to get things we have never had the opportunity to have like our own beds and privacy. I would say it is a new start, a new beginning, a new hope and a clean slate.”

Bynny is from Avon. This story was collected by Eagle County Housing Authority.

SARAH’S STORY:
After being a stay at home mother, Sarah suddenly found herself a single mother in need of housing. When she moved in, a huge burden had lifted, and she was relieved to know that her children’s childhood memories would be fond ones.

WHAT HAVING AN AFFORDABLE PLACE TO LIVE MEANS TO SARAH:
“By being in this home, it has allowed me to not only make ends meet, but also enjoy life. I don’t have to work several jobs which means I can enjoy my children…”

Sarah is from Estes Park. This story was collected by Estes Park Housing Authority.

JOHN’S STORY:
Since an injury resulted in John needing the use of a wheelchair, he needed a location with accessibility. John is an active board member and works for a number of festivals in Telluride.

WHAT HAVING AN AFFORDABLE PLACE TO LIVE MEANS TO JOHN:
John has supportive and friendly community. “I was driving home in snow, and I wondered how I would get into my apartment from my van. I noticed my neighbors shoveling out my parking space… ready to help me get to my front door. It was the beginning of many fond memories of kindness shared here.”

John is from Durango. This story was collected by Mercy Housing.

MEIGHEN’S STORY:
Meighen was living in a domestic violence situation. After she left her spouse, she couldn’t afford her bills. She and her kids felt alone and scared. After moving, they feel safe and stable. “The kids are doing great in school, and I am training for a better job so I can support my family.”

WHAT HAVING AN AFFORDABLE PLACE TO LIVE MEANS TO MEIGHEN:
“It has been the bridge out of poverty and into a better future for my daughters and I. Without the safety net of affordable housing, I don’t know where my daughter and I would be today. We are so grateful.”

Meighan is from Avon. This story was collected by Eagle County Housing Authority.

These stories represent thousands of Coloradans whose lives have benefited from a safe and affordable place to live. Learn more about affordable housing in Colorado and what you can do to help support the cause at liveaffordablycolorado.org.