



Coalition on a Mission

a monthly newsletter of the Supportive Housing Coalition of New Mexico

JUNE 2016

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I'm writing to thank you all....



Mickey and Tillie show off his new apartment and his gift from the students at Albuquerque Academy

When the staff at SHC-NM receives a letter of gratitude, it makes everything we do worthwhile. After losing everything and experiencing homelessness, Mickey not only got an apartment through the work of SHC-NM Housing Specialist, Tillie Poper, and our partner agencies, he received a "Welcome Home" basket from the students in SHC-NM's service-learning project.

When Mickey's parents both became very ill, he decided to stay and care for them full time. The experience, while extremely important for his parents, took all of Mickey's available resources. Five years later, his parents had both passed away and Mickey lost his home because "nothing was coming in" during that time. He had no choice but to live on the street.

"Every day is survival mode when you are on the street - just trying to find a place to sleep. I realized that trying to hang onto all that stuff was stressful. I realize now what is most important," shares Mickey, "relationships, and shelter, food, and clothing."

Mickey worked very hard to get the help he needed but "everything takes so long when you are on the street." It took 6 months from his initial screening but finally Mickey got the news he wanted to hear - he had a housing voucher. Once he received his voucher from Supportive Housing Coalition, Mickey found where he wanted to live and was housed shortly afterwards. At his lease signing, all the organizations that he had worked with were there to help.

Mickey is so excited and grateful to be in his new home. His enthusiasm spills over as he describes the furniture donated through Heading Home and the plans he has to rebuild his life. "The worse thing right now is being alone with my parents gone and kids moved away. I am going to go back to my old church," he explains.

Mickey was especially touched by the welcome basket from the students. "How can I thank them?" was his first question. His gratitude, in turn, touched us all.

I'm writing to thank you all...for your hard work, time, dedication, genuine care and concern for my well being.

I cannot express in words what it has meant to me having a safe place to lie my head at night.

There is no doubt in my mind I [would not] have a home without all of your help!

I also wanted to thank Patrick and the boys and girls for the care package. I have to admit it was very emotional (you see it was similar to what my mother gave me for my first apartment). The furniture, kitchen and bathroom accessories have all been put to good use.

I give thanks for the gifts. You are all in my prayers.

Mickey

Housing First! The Key is Housing is a community outreach program of Supportive Housing Coalition of New Mexico. Through the program, students learn about homelessness, the Housing First intervention, and ways to "give back" to the community.

Schools at all levels can get involved through community service, senior projects, or classroom units. SHC is seeking business sponsors, partner schools, and volunteers for the fall of 2016.

For more information on how you can become a sponsor, school partner, or a volunteer with the program, please contact Jen Bear at jbear@thehousingcoalition.org or call 505.255.3643 ext. 1113.



Volunteer Spotlight



More photos at
bit.ly/SHCPhotos



PNM Annual Day of Service
 05.19.16

We are grateful to PNM employees who came out to work on May 19th for the Annual Day of Service! Pictured left to right, front row: Dina Ortiz, Maureen Gannon, Yesika Valles, SHC-NM tenant Kelly M., Robin Delapp, E.J. Anderson; back row: Sharon Brown, John Hale, Stephen Saletta, Matt Owens

Registration is Now Open!

4th Annual
 Strike Out Homelessness
 Bowl-A-Thon & Raffle

09.24.16
 Holiday Bowl
 Albuquerque

Supportive Housing
 Coalition of New Mexico



Please support our only major fundraiser event of the year!

More information

www.thehousingcoalition.org/calendar-of-events/bowl/
 Email: info@thehousingcoalition.org
 Call: 505.255.3643 ext. 1111

SUNDAY FUND 20% DAY
 of the days
 FOOD SALES
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