The year 2000 was the breaking point for Richard and his wife Laurie. He had a stable job as a contractor for a power company when he fell and broke his foot. Because of his injury, Richard was prescribed opiates and became addicted. When his prescription ran out, he bought them on the street. It wasn’t long after that he and Laurie had to file bankruptcy and ten years later their house was foreclosed.

In 2012 Richard began his journey to recovery at a local treatment facility. A year after claiming his sobriety, he and Laurie were forced to leave the place they called home. “We were on our own, people selling drugs weren’t necessarily friends.” Now physically living on the streets with no income, Richard began panhandling to provide for him and his wife. “It was very degrading, a lot of people think you’re just out to get drugs.”

Through it all, Laurie and Richard stayed together, sleeping wherever they could.

One day in March 2016, Richard stopped at Healthcare for the Homeless to get an ID. There, he met with the housing director who put him in contact with SHC to get a voucher. The SHC housing specialist and service coordinator helped the process go smoothly by helping him get social security for his disability and finding the best housing options for him. By June 2016, Richard and Laurie were permanently off of the streets and Richard was given a fresh start.

Being homeless for six years created physical and emotional damage to Richard. But housing has made the difference. In a collaborative effort with SHC, his service coordinator, and local community partners, he continues to recover and maintain his health. “This place is really a godsend. I didn’t know this housing existed; it’s made the difference, I’d still be on the streets.”
Donor Appreciation!
Mayor Keller Affirms Commitment to Housing First

We are thrilled that so many people came out to celebrate the impact we have made on ending homelessness because of the commitment by our funders, grantors, partners, and donors. Thursday, April 19, we gathered to honor all our supporters and reaffirm our commitment to ending homelessness through permanent supportive housing. Mayor Tim Keller joined the festivities, discussing funding for housing, homelessness, and behavioral health in his proposed budget. He also introduced some of his new housing and homelessness staff and underscored his belief in the Housing First model. The event was sponsored by Il Vicino Westside and Canteen Brewery. Thank you to all who attended. You have warmed our heart!