

SUCCESS STORIES / CASE HISTORIES

This is just a sampling of the successes and testimonials we've seen, thanks to our local programs:

"I was homeless for 11 yrs. and unemployed for 15 yrs. Due to the programs in the area I am now housed and employed. If it was not for the programs in the area I would probably be dead. My life has been changed for the better I now have the opportunity to help people that are in similar situations that I use in at one time. I am very grateful".

"The hand up is there for those that truly want it and are ready for change"

A., a young Afghanistan veteran, his wife and two very young children moved to Oregon from Michigan so they could both attend school. Unfortunately, they arrived six months before he could receive any grant money for school. Unable to find work, they were supported for three months by an aunt, living in a motel from November to February. They did not meet the "but for" threshold because the aunt refused to withdraw funding, even though it was crippling her own financial stability. They were able to locate housing with the help of a SSVF case manager, but did not qualify for temporary financial assistance. Operation 365 funds were used to pay their move in costs, at \$1,040. They are now stably housed, A. is in school, and his wife works part time when not taking care of their children. They have been financially stable since late April.

R. and his wife are both disabled; he has had two hip replacements and she suffered a skull fracture three years ago, causing her to lose her job. They were assisted by the SSVF in 2013, and moved into a second story apartment. They returned to us in March of this year, because a ground floor apartment had opened up and they were really struggling with the stairs in their current unit (they use a walker and a cane, respectively). One of the parameters of the program states that the SSVF cannot pay a deposit twice for any one client. Operation 365 to the rescue! \$300 to move downstairs and there is no longer any safety risk to either of them.

D., new to Lane County after escaping domestic violence in Portland with her eight year old son, did not qualify for assistance from Womenspace because she had been able to stay with family for a while. She did not qualify for SSVF because she was "couch surfing." She started a full time job and was approved for an apartment, but did not have the full deposit saved. With \$879 in OP 365 funds, she was able to move into her own place in February.

R. lived in a two bedroom apartment with his wife and two kids, one so severely disabled that his needs prevented R's wife from working. R. was determined to be over the income limits for SSVF enrollment, although due to child support payments from a previous relationship, his take-home pay was actually not nearly enough to support a family of four. Operation 365 funding paid his rent and a late fee in February, and were used again in March to prevent their eviction, for a total of \$1310. They now receive SSI for their disabled son and are financially stable.

S. did not meet the SSVF threshold for Homeless Prevention financial assistance. He received an eviction notice and with case management provided by the SSVF housing specialist, was approved almost immediately for another apartment, but could not afford the deposit; although

he worked full time, he was only making minimum wage. With \$715 in Operation 365 funds, he moved into a Vet-LIFT subsidized apartment, near his place of employment, where he continues to bike to work daily.

J. first came to the SSVF after being laid off from a lucrative position. His only income at that time was a service-connected VA disability pension of less than \$700 a month, yet his rent was due at \$1100 a month, and he was reluctant to move his children away from their neighborhood schools to locate less expensive housing. He did not meet the SSVF threshold for financial assistance, but was referred to the SVDP employment program for veterans, Veterans in Progress. Not only did he find a job, but he was hired as a case manager for that very program! In an ironic twist, when he returned to the SSVF for rental assistance again, he was denied due to being over the income limits for the program! Operation 365 funds were utilized to pay one month's rent (\$1100) until he received his first steady pay checks. J. recently won a child support case from the children's mother, the family is stably housed, and SVDP has gained one incredible worker, who continues to help other veterans find employment and financial security.

C. was awarded a HUD-VASH voucher to help him stretch his meager SSI income. He fell behind in rent payments in December, admitting sheepishly that he "may have overspent on Christmas gifts" for his 5 estranged children. He did not meet SSVF criteria for financial assistance. One hundred dollars (only one hundred!) prevented his eviction and the loss of his voucher.

R. stayed in the Vet Safe Spot while he awaited a disability hearing. It took 5 months to get the hearing. Staying at the mission wasn't a possibility because he could not go up and down stairs. After being in the camp for six months R. got his disability income and was able to move out on his own.

M. came to the Vets Safe Spot with an alcohol addiction. M. eventually, while staying at the camp, hit rock bottom and decided to go through in-patient treatment for alcohol addiction. After that, M. moved into a sober house and began a new job.

S. was evicted twice from the Vets Safe Spot and after the second time we suggested that he go to in-patient drug treatment. S. really wanted to be somewhere safe, so decided to go through with the treatment and better his situation. Now he lives in a Conestoga Hut, outside of the Vet Safe Spot, and has a full-time job.