

My experience/stay at TIS

So I was at a point in my life where I had become homeless for the first time in my life, and I'm a 36 year old single mom of 2 kids, but only my 9 yr. old son lives w/ me full-time. I wasn't working and depending on my now ex fiancé to support us but that had become too much on him and we began fighting a lot, plus my son was miserable so we were kicked out and had to stay w/ my mother temporarily cause she lives in a senior development.

So after 3 weeks at being at my mom's I had luckily found TIS through Neighborhood Services. The same day I went to Neighborhood Services they had already put me on speaker phone w/ Julie and Fran at TIS and they asked me some questions and at first I was honestly a little scared to go into a homeless shelter but my interview in person was already set up and I had nowhere else to go.

So my son and I went to the interview w/ Fran and Julie and we couldn't believe how beautiful and big the house (shelter) was! All of our fears had gone at that point, we knew we were at the right place! We were shown our bedroom which I personally couldn't get over how lovely it was and the space was huge! My son had his own bed as did I in the same room. This place had immediately felt like a home and not a shelter, and we knew good things were to come. We couldn't wait to move in that Friday!

As time went by I attended all the classes that were required and I graduated from "Getting Ahead" class which I really needed and learned a lot of useful information and tools to help me manage and budget my money better. It was like having one big family, we all sat down for dinner every night the same time.

Also my son who previously had struggled w/ his school grades and socializing with other kids his age was now on honor roll getting all A's and B's on his report card which I give credit to the stability and daily routines on TIS. He had made good friends with 2 other young boys his age which really brought him out of his shell.

After about 5 months of stay at TIS we were blessed to have found our own apartment through TIS which we live in now and couldn't be more grateful. My son has continued to stay on the honor roll and keep up with his chores.

My mother and I both say all the time "What a blessing TIS has been and continues to be!" I know without the S4 Program (Shelter, Stability, Support, Success) we would not have gotten this far. I can proudly stand on my own two feet again and take care of my kids without the fear of becoming homeless again!