

Homeless Outreach Success Stories

PATH Highlight (March)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this Success Story is different than past Success Stories. The story that follows highlights the importance of engagement.

Participant is a 57-year-old African American male. He is a US Veteran who had become stranded in Los Angeles after coming from Sacramento for medical care. When the outreach team engaged participant, he had recently been in the hospital due to an accident/injury and was demonstrating symptomology of depression. Participant had lost his personal contact information and was not able to reach his family or Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (VA/VASH) social worker.

Participant was engaged by outreach case manager and a nurse at Union Station. Participant presented himself with a walker and bandaged leg, stating he had been released from the hospital following injury. Participant stated that he had been on the streets for several weeks and was trying to get back to Sacramento. Participant reported that he was working with a VASH Social Worker and came to Los Angeles for medical care but became stranded. Attempts were made to contact his VASH Social Worker as well as family in Sacramento in order to reunify the participant with family. However, the attempts were not immediately successful. Due to the participant's physical and emotional condition at the time, approval was received to place client in a motel while reunification attempts continued.

Participant was placed at The Stuart Motel from January 29 – February 7. Unfortunately, reunification attempts were unsuccessful on February 7, so participant was referred to First to Serve Vernon and was provided with direct transportation to the shelter for intake. The case manager remained with participant to introduce him to the intake staff and ensure his belongings were accounted for. An appointment was made for the following week to meet with participant to continue working on connecting him with his VASH social worker in Sacramento. However, the case manager was informed the following Monday that the participant did not stay for his intake. The case manager secured a bed for the following day and attempted to get in contact with the participant to let him know he could return to the shelter and complete intake. However, contact attempts were unsuccessful. On March 24, the case manager received an unexpected phone call from the participant. He was audibly in high spirits and was calling to let her know that he had finally reconnected with his VASH social worker and had found an apartment. Participant was waiting for the inspection to take place but was expecting to be able to move in soon. Participant stated he had also been able to contact his family and was staying with his son until his move in date. Participant expressed gratitude for working with him earlier in the year and stated that it had been a difficult time for him. PATH asked participant to stay in touch and to let them know when he successfully moves into his apartment. On March 26, he called to let PATH know that he had moved in. He provided his address and again thanked the case manager and PATH for helping him out earlier this year.

PATH Success Story (April)

A 27 year old African American pregnant female and her male partner were encountered at Pershing Square. The client and her partner became homeless after relocating to Los Angeles from the Midwest and not being able to secure employment. Because of the clients' homeless status, their children were placed in foster care. The client and her partner were in desperate need of housing services in order to gain custody of their children. Metro Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) immediately placed the couple in the Crenshaw Inn Motel due to the client's pregnancy and other health issues. From the motel, MDT outreach specialists referred the clients to the Goodwill Career Development Program and Express Employment Agency to help increase their income. Based on the couple's assessment and level of independence, they were referred to the SPA 4 Family Solutions Center and SPA 4 Rapid Re- Housing Program (RRH). Metro MDT Outreach Specialist assisted the clients with housing navigation and successfully connected them to a landlord in Inglewood, CA. During the clients' time at the motel, Metro MDT provided groceries and transportation to medical, employment, and housing appointments. In early April, the client gave birth to a healthy baby, and as a result of their connection to SPA 4 RRH and Metro MDT Outreach, the client and her partner successfully signed a lease in Inglewood on 4/28/20. The clients are now focusing on regaining custody of their children. The female client said, "I made it home!"

PATH Success Story (May)

A 36-year old Latina single mother of two daughters (15 years old and 17 years old) were homeless for over a year and often slept in her car or on Metro trains. Client was encountered on the Metro Blue Line 7th Street by a PATH Outreach Specialist. The family was placed in a motel and received case management services and advocacy for several months while waiting for the client's referral to a family program was accepted. The family was provided clothing and food assistance. The client received transportation assistance while she was able to work. Outreach team members met the client in the field to accommodate her busy schedule. The family's journey toward housing became more difficult when COV-19 pandemic emerged. Despite the concerns related to the pandemic, the client did not lose faith and actively searched for work after her primary work source closed and she lost her car. The client's Family Solution Center referral was accepted, and a unit was secured. The client signed her lease 04/28/2020. The family was provided with household items and small appliances while her furniture was delivered. Regular contact is maintained with the family to support them through their transition. The client reports that she and her two girls are happy in their new apartment.

PATH Success Story (June)

Client is a 31- year- old employed African American female who has a 5 year old daughter. Both she and her daughter have been homeless for the past 5 years, living on the Blue Line at the Slauson Station. The client suffers from diabetes as well as mental health issues. The client is a single mother who shares custody with the father of the child. The client had been looking to find a nice unit for she and her daughter to be safe and comfortable. The client had necessary documentation for she and her daughter. Client was enrolled into the PATH program and was approved to be placed in a motel. While at the motel, the client was connected to PATH Family Solutions Center. There the client received the help she needed. The client was assigned to a housing navigator who found her a 2- bedroom apartment. The client was then accepted into the rapid rehousing program with PATH. On May 19, 2020, the client signed the lease to her new apartment. The client was extremely excited and thankful. On June 4, 2020, the client moved out of the motel into her new place. As a result of the client's patience and hard work she is now able to enjoy her new place along with her daughter. The client reports no longer having to wonder if she will be able to find warm shelter or a bed for she and her daughter. The client stated she is very thankful to God, PATH and all the people that helped her progress in her life.