



*"I had been camping in the woods for several years and receiving Social Security Income (SSI). I never wanted to get subsidized housing because I was too proud to ask for help. I don't want people to think I'm trying to take advantage of the system, I don't like even getting SSI, but I have to. Then everything changed. My daughter's mother left the state and left her in my care. I'll sleep in a tent if I have to, but not with my daughter. I knew I needed a home if she's going to be with me. I couldn't do this anymore, not with her. That was when I came to Catholic Charities. I can't thank them enough, and I want to pay them back. I don't know how, but someday I will."*

Tom's case manager helped him access Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing (HPRP) and food stamps. He has secured a small two bed-room house to rent. The landlord has been trying to sell the house with no success and has given Tom the option to buy. With the help of USDA Rural Development, this is a possibility.

It hasn't been a smooth ride for Tom as he adjusts to his new home and being a full-time dad to a young girl. However, Tom is working together with his case manager on a plan of stability to make this situation last far longer than the one year (the full length of assistance that HPRP provides). They continuously work on budgeting within a fixed income and have established counseling and case management services in his area.

