

Tracy's Home!

Thanks to [Finding Independence by CPSH](#), Tracy and his family learned of affordable housing vouchers offered by local housing authorities in the North Texas area. Multiple applications and months of waiting paid off when Tracy was awarded a housing voucher enabling him to pay only 30% of his income toward rent. Now he proudly has an apartment home close to family and work, for himself and his cat Queso.



It Takes Patience

Tracy's mom signed up for the [Finding Independence by CPSH](#) newsletter on the [website](#). Not only did she learn about services and workshops, but she also began receiving housing opportunity notifications. With her cheat sheet of Tracy's information handy, she would quickly register as soon as a waiting list opened. Tracy was registered in Dallas, Arlington, Denton, McKinney, and more - for years!

It was an exciting day when an application packet arrived in the mail from the McKinney Housing Authority. Return in two weeks or lose the opportunity! Tracy met the deadline and the requirements, and thankfully was accepted a month later. Tracy and his mom attended an orientation two weeks later, and just like that! walked out with a Mainstream Housing Voucher effective that day!

Off and Running

After years of waiting, Tracy's family faced an overwhelming deadline: 60 days to find a property willing to accept a Mainstream Housing Voucher. Or lose the voucher. And go back on the waiting list.

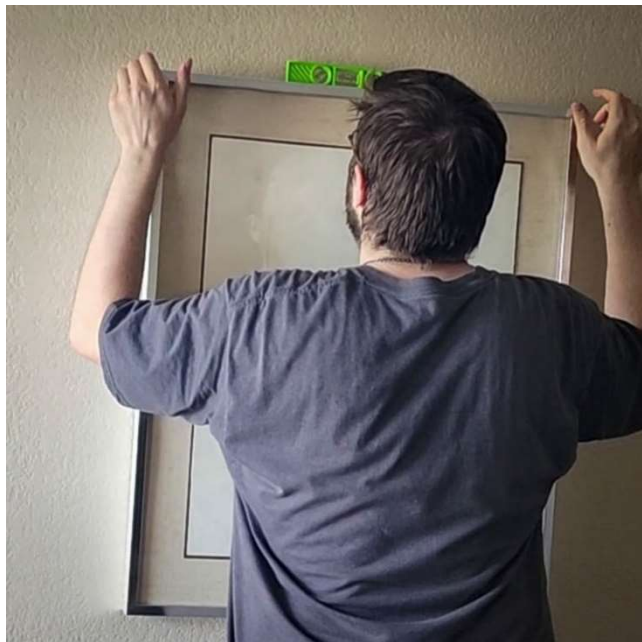
Although the voucher was issued by the McKinney Housing Authority, it could be used anywhere in a 25-mile radius. Through a series of helpful referrals, an available apartment was found less than a mile from Tracy's current address. Good news! He would remain in a familiar neighborhood, just a few miles from his family.

After more paperwork, an inspection, and final approval by the Housing Authority, Tracy's move-in date was set! The 60-day deadline was met!

It's Expensive to Be Poor

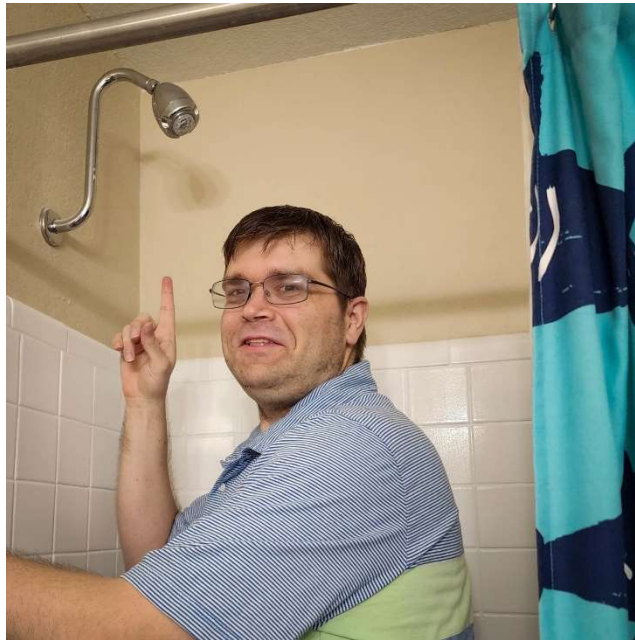
Tracy had two additional months left on his old lease. The cost of early termination was even more costly than the rent. The start date of his new lease could not be extended. Tracy's mom did the math. Double rent for two months, double utility services, new apartment deposit, pet deposit, cost of movers.

Would this magnitude of upfront expenses be worth it? In the long run, losing the voucher was not an option, and the family belt tightened for another few months.



It's the Small Things

"Mom, come see this! I can actually stand under the shower head!" When you are over six feet tall, that's a big deal! Tracy was excited to settle into his new home with the amazing shower! His family agreed that it was a great improvement over his former apartment.



"I love this apartment! Look, I can stand underneath the shower head!" - Tracy

Benefits

Now six months down the road, life has improved for Tracy and his mom. With 70% of his SSDI income available to buy groceries, medicine, and pay utilities, the reduced stress on the family budget has Tracy's mom thinking about retirement. Still working in her 70's, she says it's so fulfilling to see Tracy able to cover his basic living expenses independently.

The Voucher Bears Fruit

An outdoor rocker, a tomato and some pepper plants, a watering can, and Tracy has the outdoor balcony garden he wanted so badly. A new pepper in the garden is a source of pride and joy for him, and a quality-of-life addition he couldn't easily afford before being awarded the voucher. He can hardly wait to harvest the tomatoes and peppers!



A Note from Tracy's Mom

This story would not have been possible without Finding Independence by CPSH! I learned from them about vouchers, and they knew when local housing authorities announced their waiting lists opening for new applicants. Otherwise, announcements buried in the classified ad section of newspapers would have been missed, and I would not have known about the 25-mile radius rule. Such valuable tips!

Thank you, Finding Independence by CPSH! Tracy, Queso, and Mom have all benefitted from your expertise and guidance!