

## Nancy Williamson



After 13 years of surviving on assistance from various community housing resources, Nancy Williamson was abruptly told her benefits had been exhausted and she needed to leave her home. At 48-years-old, Nancy's life was completely turned upside down. Because of a long history of mental illness, Nancy wasn't able to

work and had very little money saved. Now, she was on the verge of homelessness.

While at Norwalk Hospital for a routine exam, she explained her situation to a staffer. The hospital employee remembered hearing about a program offered by Family Centers that seeks out affordable housing for people living with a prolonged mental illness. After looking into it further, Nancy was referred to the Housing Resource Program.

Soon, the search was on to find Nancy's new home. Knowing how comfortable Nancy was in her home of more than a decade, the Housing Resource Program staff tried to find a different apartment in the same complex.

As luck would have it, a room was available for rent just a few units away. To make the transition as seamless as possible, the Housing Resource Program negotiated a lower monthly rent and gave Nancy a small no-interest loan to cover the room's security deposit.

But getting settled wasn't such a simple process, as personality conflicts quickly created hostility between Nancy and her new roommate. Despite multiple efforts to mediate the two roommates' disagreements and find a way for them to live harmoniously, the Housing Resource Program decided it would be best if Nancy live on her own.

Now that Nancy's life is more stable than it's been in years, she's optimistic about the future. Being so close to homelessness, Nancy says she enjoys doing the typical household chores most people take for granted. And while Nancy is living a mostly independent lifestyle these days, the Housing Resource Program still lends a hand with day-to-day issues like minor repairs, getting utilities like cable and telephone connected and moving furniture. "It's nice to know that Family Centers is only a phone call away," she said. "They've done so much to pick me up when I was at my lowest point. Aside from saving me from homelessness, Family Centers gave me my dignity back."