

Tiny House Village Resident Stories

Tom

Tom lived out of his vehicle before moving into True Hope Village. During his time at True Hope he was able to participate in an apprenticeship program through Wood Technology Center, a trades school near the village. Tom now lives in the Denny Park Apartments, a LIHI affordable housing building. He wanted to share his experience with the Tiny House Village program:

“I was living in my car at the beginning of April this year. Work hours had become slow and I had a car payment due along with rent. I had to make a choice whether to make a payment on my car or put the money towards the roof over my head.

I decided to make a payment on the car because that’s what got me to work. I then started sleeping in my car and couldn’t figure out how I was going to get back on my feet. I was grateful to be in my car during the rainy nights, but it was very uncomfortable and something I hope not to experience again. One day I shared my situation with Mrs. Krishna Richardson-Daniels from The Wood Tech Center. She immediately assured me that she could help. A few hours later I got a call to meet with Shelby from True Hope



Village. I went to the village and met with the staff and was given a key to a tiny home, which I was not expecting at all. I had been at True Hope for 29 days when I was told that they had found me an apartment. I was thinking ‘I’ve heard this before’ but I soon received a phone call from Ms. Ashley at LIHI. After I got the call the process was so quick. I now live at Denny Park Apartments and it’s been a blessing to be living there. Without the great commitment and communication by these ladies I would not have a place to be living in.”

Mary

After a series of devastating life events and an injury that caused Mary to lose her job, she was forced to live on the streets. A volunteer at a shelter connected her to the Tiny House Village Program. Mary was placed at Whittier Heights, a village solely for women. After months at the village, she was able to obtain a Section 8 voucher for permanent housing and move into a unit in Kent. Mary was recently offered a job at her apartment building and is working with a local church to provide support for the women at Whittier Heights Village. Her statement on the value of Tiny House Villages is below:

“Today I can say that I've got a lot of morals and values. I can stand up taller and be proud of the things that I do today and look at myself in the mirror and I like what I see. I'm building myself back up. It's degrading out there and in the streets for a woman. These tiny houses saved my life and I see people bloom when they come here. We need more of these villages and more support for them. The village works way differently than being out on the street. It builds a person's self-esteem back up so they take pride and makes them want to get a job.”

Tina

Tina was a single mother living with her infant and dog in the woods in West Seattle when she was referred by the Navigation Team who connected her with the Tiny House Village program. Tina is now employed full time and staying with her son at LIHI's Columbia Court, a two year transitional housing program for homeless families. With Section 8, she pays 30% of her income for rent. She is currently in the process of working with her case manager to find permanent housing.



Tina compares her time in a tent to her time spent in a Tiny House:

“So living in a tent was you know, it gets cold. I always had to have candles or a stove and then you had to buy propane and you know tents burn up real easy. There's no lock on the doors, you know, there's no safety. You're just out in the elements. It's devastating. Now I have security. I have a lock on

my door. I can shut out the world and go have my private time or I can be friendly and come out and be with people. I fixed it up like my own little house. My stuff doesn't get stolen. I'm proud of my little house. When I came to True Hope it saved my life. I got back on track. I started having love for myself feeling safe here. It's your own little studio. We have a bathroom and kitchen here that we can use freely. We can come and go as we please. I've been able to love myself again and see that I am somebody and I am worthy of loving myself and being a woman in this world.”

Jamal

A man who had experienced homelessness for 3 years in Seattle was able to move into Interbay Village about a year ago. He stayed in LIHI's severe weather emergency shelter at Ernestine Anderson Place during last February's snow storm. At Interbay Village he entered into a supportive community, stayed in a heated and insulated tiny house, and received case management services. The LIHI Case Managers of the village helped him get in touch with his family, and recently moved him into permanent housing by reuniting him with family in New York. Because of his mental illness, a LIHI Case Manager accompanied him on the flight and made sure he got safely to his family.

Marion

A woman from Texas came to Seattle leaving behind friends and families, including three children and grandchildren. She was a productive working member of society until she became disabled by mental illness and started receiving SSDI in the midst of 2015.

After enrolling in the tiny house village program, the woman began working closely with her case manager and applied and obtained a King County Housing Authority section 8 voucher. As soon as she understood that the voucher was portable, she decided to reunite with her family in Texas. The woman successfully attended orientation in Texas at Denton Housing Authority and paid for her own security deposit for the apartment.