

## **Steve & his daughter: a housing success story**

### *Dear Family Services,*

Not so long ago I was in the same position countless Americans are in – desperate and in a downward spiral. I was a single father after a divorce, followed by major heart surgery that put me out of work. The final nail was losing our residence because of our landlord's decision to sell. I was at the bottom – eviction notice in hand, feeling helpless and foggy-brained. Someone told me maybe Family Services could help us find a solution.

Skeptical that any organization could provide an outlet to begin our recovery, I wandered into their office in search of help. I was assigned a caseworker and told to return the next day for an intake assessment.

Derek became not just a caseworker for us, but someone I could really convey my thoughts to, which was a release and started my healing process. He is always forward-thinking in his approach. First, he arranged a voucher for a hotel for a week to insure our safety and stability. Our choice of hotel put us near Green Lake, so that became our daily playground. My daughter's swimming-pool-green hair was a good look for the summer as we relaxed from the stress we'd been under.

I met a few times a week with Derek and soon landed a job to start us out again. It was far from the job of my dreams, but provided stability. After the hotel, Derek helped us get safe temporary housing for three months. During our stay there we kept regaining what we had lost in terms of our stability and my own personal confidence. We became friends with the neighbors and became part of a community again. I looked forward to my meetings at Family Services, and Derek reveled in the victories we experienced.

As of this month we're in our new apartment building, with a rent we can afford, near our old neighborhood where my daughter's school and friends are. We have a new beginning.

Without the help and encouragement of the entire staff at Family Services, this transition wouldn't have been possible. You placed an adult and his child into safety, making sure that difficult times wouldn't turn our lives into disaster. What I can write here could never truly describe the care you took for us. It's something I'll always look upon and cherish...

Thanks to and for all,

*Steve*