

Semcac Family Homeless Prevention Success Story 2016-2017

Sue moved to Austin seeking employment after losing her job in Iowa. Her adult son, who receives SSDI, was already living here and struggling to pay rent. Sue found a job, at a local food manufacturing plant, through a temp agency and moved in with her son. Sue's move solved her son's rent dilemma and allowed her a place to reside. This living situation was working, until three months later when her son received a Section 8 housing voucher he had applied for, previously. The voucher was meant to be utilized only for him (solo), which meant Sue needed to move.

Sue found an affordable place to rent and had saved enough for the first month's rent. She asked Semcac for help with her deposit. Semcac staff decided to assist with both rent and deposit since Sue had been sleeping on her son's couch and had no furniture. In addition, Sue also needed to get her driver's license renewed, insure her vehicle, and get new glasses before she could pass her driver's license test. Semcac staff gave Sue many referrals, including:

*Energy Assistance Program -Semcac staff assisted her with the completion of the application for energy assistance.

*Local tax site – Semcac staff scheduled an appointment for Sue to get her taxes completed for free.

*Salvation Army- Semcac staff referred Sue to Salvation Army, where she obtained vouchers for furniture, clothes, household items and the food shelf.

*GED class – Semcac staff gave Sue contact information for a GED class in the area.

*SMRLS – Semcac staff gave Sue information about the Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, where she can obtain legal information for free.

*Mower Council for the Handicapped – Semcac provided Sue with information to this entity so that her disabled son could seek assistance with filing necessary forms.

*Section 8 – Semcac provided information for Sue to obtain a Section 8 housing application.

Sue was eventually hired as a permanent, full-time employee, at her job obtained via the temp agency. She was able to get new eyeglasses. And, she saved enough money to purchase a replacement driver's license and car insurance. GED classes were full for the winter/spring session, however, she registered for the summer session.

Sue contacted Semcac staff six months after receiving assistance. She had received a Section 8 voucher, was taking her GED classes, and was even engaged to be married in December.

Wendy/Homeless/FHP success story Spring 2017