



New Beginnings

For many of us, deciding between Target or Walmart comes down to convenience, but for Sharon, her decision was based on which parking lot was empty enough so she could park her car and sleep.

At 76 years old, Sharon, a retired senior citizen, found herself living on the streets due to unforeseen personal matters. After spending one month, flip-flopping between store parking lots, on a 114-degree day in June, Sharon by luck, happened to come across a flyer for TCAA's I-HELP program.

Not knowing what to expect, Sharon drove to the I-HELP shelter to seek refuge from the summer heat. Inside, she was met with a friendly face from one of our staff members. For the first time in a month, Sharon was able to wash her clothes and take a warm shower. Not only was she given shelter for the night, but she also began the process with a Case Manager to get her out of being homeless.

After talking to her Case Manager, and setting up a plan of action, it didn't take too long for Sharon to secure a stable apartment. One of the happiest moments for Sharon was one we might take for granted, it was the day her new mattress was delivered.

It's now been two years since Sharon was living on the street. She receives nutritional meals from TCAA's Food Pantry, and is sharing her new home with her cat. After being asked if she had anything to say to the donors that make contributions to TCAA, Sharon had these words:

"I cannot express the gratitude to all the donors who have given generously to help me and so many others. You helped get me off the streets and into a home. Thank you for being there for me when others were not."