



# Connections

NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2024

## Housing Work Expands to Help More People

### Jubilee Now Maryland's Largest Housing Supports Provider

When Brian Mason was ready to move to his own apartment, his family knew where to turn for help. Jubilee's housing support team stepped in to work one-on-one with Brian to prepare for his big move. Brian participated in weekly budget meetings and training on how to be a successful tenant. A Jubilee housing support specialist was by his side for move-in day.

Jubilee is now the largest provider of Housing Support Services in Maryland. The service launched in 2021 with support from generous donors. We have now helped more than 170 people with their housing needs.

**Jubilee works one-on-one with housing clients to secure and maintain housing where they are the leaseholder.** This work includes obtaining government housing vouchers, including the new Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) rental subsidy. Work continues well beyond lease-signing to ensure people keep their hard-won housing. Maintaining documentation for up-to-date benefits and leases is crucial long-term work Jubilee provides.

We know that proper paperwork is not enough to ensure success living independently. Our team of four housing specialists provides skills training on how to be a successful leaseholder. This might include how to interact with a landlord, neighbors,



Jubilee's Housing Support Services team Francess Issa (pictured solo) Shirley Fils-Aime, Maria Martinez, and Amanda Gibson (left to right) are here to help people with disabilities navigate housing.

and housemates. Support, like Brian received on how to manage a budget, helps people be successful on their own. Even with housing vouchers, living in your own apartment can be pricey for people on a fixed budget.

**"We're working to make independence an affordable reality for people with disabilities,"** said Senior Housing Support Manager Francess Issa. "For example, we now help people secure additional benefits that help lower utility and grocery bills."

**Currently, Jubilee provides pro-bono housing support to 32 people.**

"We won't turn away people in need if we can help them," said Jubilee Executive Director Steve Keener. "It's important that every person eligible for the government's housing benefit apply for it. **We're grateful for your support to help fund our housing work so no one is left behind.**" ●

# Quick Action Saved Housing Client from Homelessness

## Jubilee First Agency to Secure Housing Under Maryland's New Rent Subsidy Program

"When I first met Sharon, she was in crisis," said Jubilee's Housing Support Specialist Amanda Gibson. "She lived with her uncle, and when he passed away the bills started to pile up. She faced eviction from the home she knew and had nowhere to go."

A service coordinator at the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) reached out to Jubilee for help. **Our Housing Support Services was just the ticket to get Sharon the help she desperately needed.**

Amanda worked closely with DDA to cut through the red tape to quickly help Sharon. Now, Sharon is the first person in Maryland to benefit from DDA's new rental subsidy. This subsidy caps rent and basic utilities payments to 30 percent of income.

**Sharon is now happily settled in a new apartment, close to her job and support network.**

Jubilee's Housing Support Services applied for all eligible benefits on Sharon's behalf. Amanda assisted Sharon in touring apartments and negotiating her new lease.

"I really hate change, but I knew this was going to be the best move for me," Sharon said. "Once I saw this apartment I knew it was for me, and I welcomed this new chapter in life. I am happy to have Judy from SEEC and Amanda from Jubilee to help me through this process."

Sharon Jackson and her dog Missy are now happily settled in their new apartment thanks to quick action by Jubilee's Housing Support Services team.



"Making sure Sharon always had a roof over her head required a lot of work, done right and done quickly," said Amanda. "Jubilee's work with Sharon continues as we help her stay on top of her bills and benefits so that she never again faces eviction." ●

*Since helping Sharon, we've now assisted an additional five people secure the rental subsidy this year.*

## Your donations support Jubilee's housing work!

Jubilee's Housing Support Services team helps people navigate housing, including securing vouchers that make independent living more affordable.

You can help by donating to Jubilee. ●

## Housing Support Services Open House

**August 23 from 12:00–1:00 p.m.**



Join our housing specialists for a virtual open house to learn how Jubilee can help you find affordable and accessible housing. Use the QR code or visit [jubileemd.org](https://jubileemd.org) to learn more. ●