



Community Solutions to End Homelessness
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Name or address issue?

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Reality Check
Debunking the myth that
employment equals housing

BWTM 2019
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Homecomer

A publication of DRC Solutions - Community Solutions to End Homelessness | Fall 2018

David and the Davises

To paraphrase the old song by 1970's pop stars Captain and Tennille, "Love will *bring* us together."

David: living unsheltered, camping in and around Trinity Park. The Davis family: deeply appreciative of all they have and caring greatly about others. Love brought them together.

David had not always been homeless. He'd had a job he liked and a safe place to live. Things were going well. In 2016, his life took an unexpected turn. The family from whom David rented a room sold their home, leaving him without a place to live. Then he had to leave town for an emergency in his own family, and his job let him go. Just like that, he'd lost his place to live and his income.

David connected with the DRC through the overflow shelter hosted at Broadway Baptist Church. He volunteered nightly at the shelter, setting up cots, loading and unloading blankets daily, sweeping and mopping, and generally assisting wherever he could. DRC Director of Housing Cindy Wright says, "David has such a positive attitude and a real desire to move forward." David interviewed with Wright and was

offered a unit at the DRC's permanent supportive housing complex, The Palm Tree Apartments. He happily accepted.

There was just one problem: His apartment was completely empty. Enter the Davis family.

The Davises are a family dedicated to service. Parents Steve and Jenny, along with teens Ellie and Coco, regularly volunteer with a variety of local agencies and generously support many causes. Steve and Jenny

continually teach their daughters to be thankful for what they have and to have compassion for others. Coco laughs good-naturedly, "We know we live in a bubble."

Jenny first learned about the DRC when her friend and Fort Worth City Councilmember Ann Zadeh posted about the agency on a Facebook group. "I saw that you all were in need of household items, so I took some things over to Cindy at The Palm Tree, and I was immediately so impressed. I asked Cindy if we could outfit an entire apartment." Says Wright, "I laughed. Of course, *YES, please!*"

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David relaxes in his new apartment.

Results: Look What You've Done!

Here are just a few of the successes you've made possible during the **third quarter of 2018**:



System Navigators

Helping prepare people for housing
365 people served



Critical Documents

Helping people replace identity documents
333 documents replaced



Victims Advocacy

Helping homeless crime victims seek justice
13 children, 46 adults served



Rapid Rehousing

Quickly placing people in temporary housing
7 people housed



Healthy Community Collaborative

Helping those with mental illness find housing
150 people assessed



Permanent Supportive Housing

Helping people overcome high barriers
Palm Tree: 5 new residents, 3 residents successfully moved on
Others: 21 people placed



Room in the Inn

Opening houses of worship for overnight shelter in heat and cold
105 unique overnight guests during the summer



Learn more about these programs at www.DRC-solutions.org

To give, text
DRCHome
to **41444**



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A Message from Bruce

Imagine how important that one moment is when someone ends their homelessness—sometimes after years of living on the streets—and takes that first exciting step into their very own apartment, their new *home*.

Now imagine what it would feel like if that first step across the threshold was into a stark, empty room: no furnishings or decorations, no bedding, no pots and pans, no food in the refrigerator How would that feel to you?

To feel comfortable, safe, and secure in one's own home is a critical element in the recovery from homelessness and the transition back into community. At the DRC we not only help homeless men, women and children to become re-housed, we also ensure that folks are housed in attractive, fully furnished and provisioned apartments.

This is one area where volunteers can have a significant impact on the life of someone transitioning out of homelessness by helping us to furnish those apartments that become someone's new home. Contact us today to learn how YOU can make a house a home!

All my best,



Bruce Frankel, Executive Director



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PRESENTED BY  **DRC**

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David and the Davises (Continued from page 1)

Team Davis sprang into action! Shopping for the apartment was “controlled crazy” according to Coco. “We had three full carts at Target. The girls really got into it,” said Steve. Ellie adds, “We didn’t realize how much stuff people need when they have nothing to start with.” The Davis family spent their Memorial Day together transforming David’s apartment from empty to cozy.

On September 6, 2018, Wright presented David the keys to his new place. She reports, “David is thrilled and so appreciative for everything the Davis family has given him.”

The Davis family didn’t do it for glory or accolades; they did it out of love and a belief in the power of Housing First. Says Steve, “Housing First is effective, people-centric, and comes with no strings attached. The type of support offered at The Palm Tree is so important to keep people housed.”

For David, it’s more personal. “I couldn’t wait to take a hot shower and get clean, and sleep in my own bed. Thank you so much.”



The Davis family encourages others to get involved. Jenny says, “This project was great because it was specific, local, and tangible. There was a start and a finish.” Ellie adds, “It felt good to set someone up for a step up.”

Outfitting an entire apartment costs approximately \$3,000 and makes a great group project. If your family, company, place of worship, or any other group would like to “set someone up for a step up,” please reach out to Cindy Wright at cwright@drc-solutions.org or 817-823-3766 today. 🌟



Reality Check: Employment and Housing

“**Get a job!**” The misconception that people can easily remedy their own situation by getting a job is often callously tossed around by people who do not understand the complexities of homelessness. Let’s take a look at what it takes for a job to change a person’s housing status.

Suppose you need to rent a place to live in Tarrant County. The rule-of-thumb is that your gross income should be three times the rent on the unit. The majority of landlords will not rent to you unless you meet this basic minimum requirement. How much gross income will you need?

	Fair Market Rent*	Hourly Pay	Monthly Pay	Yearly Pay
Efficiency	\$736.00	\$13.80	\$2,208.00	\$26,496.00
1 Bedroom	\$838.00	\$15.71	\$2,514.00	\$30,168.00
2 Bedroom	\$1,054.00	\$19.76	\$3,162.00	\$37,944.00

* www.rentdata.org for Fort Worth-Arlington Area, September 2018

Yet the minimum wage is \$7.25/hr, and many “good jobs” pay \$10 to \$12/hr — *not even enough for an efficiency.*

While it is true that employment *helps* people reclaim their lives from homelessness, employment alone is not enough. **It is critical that we develop affordable housing options for everyone.** 🌟