

FAMILIES FORWARD

DIGNITY • EMPOWERMENT • HOPE



Help Before Homelessness

Grace was trapped in a domestic violence situation for 10 years. Her husband had not allowed her to work for several years and was providing her with \$600 a month to pay for all household expenses. She had been saving as much as she could every month and was able to accrue \$9,000 in her personal savings account. She was ready to leave him but could not identify any work or housing with her lack of employment history and poor credit. This is when she sought out resources through Families Forward.

She was immediately connected with OC OneStop, who helped her create a resume and found her stable, full-time employment. Families Forward also provided her with the information of a real estate agent that worked with families with poor credit, who identified an affordable unit near her extended family. Grace was bridged into the supportive services of Orange County Family Justice Center, who helped her get a restraining order against her husband, provided her and her children with counseling, and provided access to free legal assistance.

Grace is now working 40 hours a week and living in her own permanent housing with her children. Her marriage was dissolved and her now ex-husband moved to another state. She continues to utilize counseling services and was also linked to the Sparkpoint program, where she has continued to increase her savings account. She was even able to purchase her very own vehicle from a resource provided by Families Forward. Now Grace has peace of mind knowing that her and her children are safe and she can provide the stable home they need to thrive.