



## community development partnership

*Creating opportunities for people to live, work, and thrive on the Lower Cape*

### Finding Stability at Thankful Chases Pathway

**“The stability was extremely important for me especially with my daughter. If it was just me, moving wouldn’t be that big of a deal, but I didn’t want that for her.”**

Cara Maes  
Resident, Thankful Chases Pathway



One of the biggest challenges facing the Lower Cape is keeping families from leaving. The lack of affordable housing is a major barrier for those who would love to continue living in our community.

Since 2000, as housing prices have skyrocketed, the share of young adults and families has drastically decreased. Cara, who lives at Thankful Chases Pathway with her twelve-year-old daughter, is an example of this trend as she was forced to leave the Cape after graduating high school due to a lack of affordable housing.

Cara had been living in Florida for a few years, but after her daughter was born she moved back to the Cape where her parents and brothers were still living. When she returned, however, she was unable to find a stable and affordable living arrangement. Even though she was working full time at a salon, finding an apartment within her budget was extremely difficult. The two bounced around from place to place, at times living with Cara’s parents. “I was leaving my boyfriend at the time and I wanted to move closer to family,” she recalls. However, living with her parents was not an ideal situation, as she and her daughter had to live out of one room.

Eventually Cara contacted Independence House in Hyannis and participated in their housing stabilization program. This program provides families affected by domestic violence with a safe and stable place to live while connecting them with the resources they need to find a permanent living arrangement. As part of this program Cara filled out applications for several housing programs, including those offered by the Community Development Partnership.

A single mother, Cara’s primary goal was to find dependable housing. When she was a child, Cara’s father was a salesman and during her elementary school years the family was uprooted every time her

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father was assigned to a new region. Cara wanted something different for her daughter. “The stability was extremely important for me especially with my daughter. If it was just me, moving wouldn’t be that big of a deal, but I didn’t want that for her.”

After her father passed, she was able to scrape together enough money to move her and her daughter to their own place. She signed a lease for an apartment in Dennis, but the rent was not very affordable. Luckily, two months after moving in, they were notified by the CDP of an opening at Thankful Chases Pathway in Harwich. “I had signed on to a year lease, but thankfully the landlord was nice enough to let us out after the two months or we might not have been able to move,” recalls Cara.

The two have been living at Thankful Chases for the past seven years and could not be happier. Cara has been grateful not only for the stability but also the sense of community that she feels among the residents. It has been a great place for her daughter to grow up. “All the kids in the neighborhood hangout and have basically grown up together,” she says.

The stability provided by the CDP has been extremely important for Cara during the pandemic. She, like many people across the Cape, had parts of her life upended. When businesses shut down, she was laid off from her job at the salon. The CDP put a moratorium on evictions before the state requirement, and although Cara never missed a rent payment she felt an extra sense of security living at Thankful Chases. “It has been really great living here during the pandemic,” she says, “I know that even through the uncertainty of it all I still a place to live.”

Although the pandemic has certainly been a setback, Cara hopes to one day own a home of her own, and sees Thankful Chases as an important step in the process. Cara recently started a new job at a restaurant in Dennis and feels like some things are starting to return to normal. “With so much uncertainty in the future I don’t know when I’ll be able to move, but for now I’m thankful to be living at Thankful Chases,” jokes Cara.

The CDP is dedicated to providing safe, stable and affordable housing to families on the Lower and Outer Cape like Cara’s. There are currently over 200 residents living in our housing units including over 60 children.