

Tenacity and a Helping Hand, continued

Even though her friend had been laid off since the beginning of the pandemic, and her own work schedule had been cut from 40 hours to 15 per hours per week, this courageous mom of a teenage boy continued to invest in her future by enrolling in an English class at the Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center. On the first day of class, she learned about Montgomery County's Rent Relief Program. Soon after, she called the Gilchrist Center for assistance. Staff listened to her and provided support and detailed information and resources on how to prepare for her court hearing. Finally, she was referred to the many resources that Montgomery County has made available to residents during this crisis.

She and her friend attended court with all of their paperwork and used all the tools the Gilchrist Center gave them. The judge listened and established a payment plan so they could stay in their home. Soon thereafter, one of the organizations that the Gilchrist Center referred them to awarded her \$1,700 financial assistance for rent. She is continuing to pursue additional assistance from the other organizations to which she was referred and is continuing to build her English skills. She is very grateful for the Gilchrist Center's role in helping her through this difficult time.