

HOPWA SUCCESS STORIES

APLA

From Crisis to Stability and Independence

When Miguel was discharged from the hospital in August 2022 after a six-month stay, he faced serious challenges in managing his health and rebuilding stability. His housing team stepped in to provide coordinated support, addressing both his medical and social service needs. Through this partnership, Miguel began a path of steady progress and recovery.

In March 2023, Miguel transitioned to a new injectable HIV treatment regimen after experiencing complications with medication resistance. While this required another hospital admission to initiate, it became a critical turning point in stabilizing his health and improving his overall prognosis.

By December 2024, Miguel achieved a major milestone: after years of effort, he was matched with in-home supportive services and secured reliable transportation assistance. These vital supports significantly enhanced his quality of life, enabling him to access regular care, maintain independence, and stay closely connected to his healthcare providers.

As of June 2025, Miguel has remained medically stable for over a year without any hospitalizations—an extraordinary achievement considering his earlier health trajectory. Beyond physical stability, he has turned his attention to long-term personal goals. He recently enrolled in an English class at the Rosemead Library and shared his excitement about returning to work to build his own income and independence.

Miguel's journey reflects resilience and the impact of comprehensive housing and supportive services. With the right resources in place, he has moved from frequent long-term hospitalizations and service barriers to stability, learning, and a renewed sense of independence.

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JWCH

From Homelessness to Independence

When Marcus first arrived at JWCH's office, he was experiencing homelessness. Recently relocated from another state, he had no job and was sleeping in his car. Despite these challenges, Marcus was determined to change his circumstances.

He was admitted into the 60-day emergency housing program at the Russ Hotel, where he actively engaged with staff, followed his individualized work plan, and remained focused on his goals. Later, Marcus was accepted into transitional housing through *Project New Hope*.

Before his transitional program ended, Marcus had already secured employment and with the support of the *Permanent Housing Placement (PHP)* program, he was able to move into his own apartment. This marked a major milestone: stable housing achieved through perseverance and the strategic use of available resources.

Marcus is a powerful example of how HOPWA-funded services can serve not as a long-term dependency, but as a vital bridge to self-sufficiency. By fully utilizing emergency housing, transitional support, and housing placement assistance, he was able to rebuild his life and regain independence.

Today, Marcus continues to stay in touch with the team that supported him, often sharing his deep gratitude. His story is a testament to what's possible when individuals are met with compassion, structure, and the right tools to succeed.

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Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA)

Building Independence, One Step at a Time

Joshua began his journey with the HOPWA program on January 3, 2023, when he received his housing subsidy. By February 10, 2023, he had moved into a stable home—a critical first step toward building a more secure future.

From the start, Joshua was determined to become self-sufficient. While participating in the program, he worked part-time and consistently maintained employment. He developed essential financial skills, learning how to budget his income, pay bills on time, and manage rent responsibly. Throughout his time in the program, he remained in good standing by fully adhering to the program's rules and requirements.

In December 2024, Joshua reached an important milestone: he became eligible to transition from HOPWA assistance to the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program. After successfully completing the eligibility process, he was issued a voucher and approved to relocate out of state—a move that allowed him to be closer to his support network and maintain housing stability.

Today, Joshua is living in his new home and thriving. He is self-employed, no longer relies on cash aid or temporary assistance, and is continuing to pursue financial independence. His story reflects the power of transitional support, personal commitment, and strategic planning.

Joshua's journey highlights the success of programs like HOPWA in not only addressing immediate housing needs but also empowering individuals to build sustainable, independent lives. With determination and the right support, Joshua has turned a housing subsidy into a stepping stone toward lasting self-sufficiency.

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City of Pasadena and Foothill AIDS Project (FAP)

A Journey to Stability and Renewal

Ian obtained a Pasadena TBRA certificate, which became a turning point in his journey toward housing and financial stability. He was referred by a Recovery Bridge Housing (RBH) program, having faced addiction and homelessness since 2013 and cycled through various treatment programs.

In 2022, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Ian entered treatment and transitioned into RBH. From there, he was referred to the Foothill AIDS Project (FAP) for the TBRA housing initiative and began working closely with a Housing Specialist to develop a housing plan.

After successfully completing an outpatient substance use disorder program, Ian was placed in crisis housing. During this time, his Housing Specialist referred him to the Pasadena H-TBRA program, where he was approved for a certificate. Ian soon secured a unit in Pasadena and moved into his own affordable, permanent home—where he has remained stably housed ever since.

With a safe place to call his own, Ian began focusing on his personal goals. He found employment, improved his health, and has maintained his sobriety. Ian shared that the TBRA program gave him the breakthrough he needed. Today, he is thriving—living a full, meaningful life.

Path to Independence and Stability

With the support of the Pasadena H-TBRA certificate program, Wyn has successfully achieved his personal goals and built a foundation for long-term stability. His journey began with a referral to a treatment center, followed by placement in a crisis housing program. From there, Wyn transitioned into a supportive transitional housing program, where he began working toward greater independence.

During this time, Wyn applied for and was approved for a TBRA certificate. He soon moved into a subsidized unit, where he remains stably housed. Since securing permanent housing, Wyn has made remarkable progress: he enrolled in college, maintained steady employment, joined a gym, purchased a car using his savings, and has continued to uphold his sobriety. He also reports consistently attending medical appointments and adhering to his prescribed treatment plan.

The Pasadena H-TBRA program has been life-changing for Wyn. After experiencing homelessness for several years, he now enjoys safety, stability, and the opportunity for self-improvement.

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Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS/LA)

A New Start for Michael and His Service Animal

Michael is a 30-year-old man who returned to Los Angeles in July 2025 without income or housing. That same month, he came to PAWS/LA seeking assistance for his Emotional Support Service Animal. At intake, Michael reported that he was unhoused and living in his vehicle with his service animal, *Cheese*.

Because of his extremely low-income status, Michael was unable to provide adequate nutritional and veterinary care for Cheese. He explained that he could not afford to support both himself and his service animal, and that he felt unable to move forward with his housing search until Cheese's needs were met.

PAWS/LA's Client Services Team completed an intake assessment and provided referrals for no-cost veterinary care and food support services for Cheese. Michael was also referred to Housing Information Services program (CHIRP/LA) for help accessing emergency shelter housing and food bank resources. Through this support, Michael was successfully connected with SRO Housing, where he and Cheese were able to stay.

With these resources in place, Michael can now focus on securing permanent housing. Through our Support Animal Advocacy Program, he also obtained a service animal prescription letter and a reasonable accommodation request document to present to landlords. These documents will help ensure Michael's rights as a disabled individual with a service animal and support his path toward stable housing.

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Project New Hope

From Homelessness to Hope: Peter's Journey of Transformation

Peter entered Project New Hope (PNH) in 2012 after experiencing chronic homelessness. He had been living on the streets and occasionally staying with friends. During this time, he was deeply depressed and in a very difficult place in his life. With his entire family living out of state and no close support system nearby, his situation felt even more isolating and overwhelming.

After moving into Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Peter faced numerous challenges, including emotional disorders, financial instability, health concerns, and the difficulties of being a recent migrant. Despite these obstacles, with the consistent support of his PNH Service Coordinator, Peter was connected to vital mental health and medical resources. Gradually, he began to heal and rebuild his life.

Through this journey, Peter learned how to advocate for himself and take responsibility for his well-being. Inspired to give back to the community, he took on a role as a manager at a local food bank—a position that brings him joy and allows him to support others in need.

Determined to continue growing, Peter made the decision to return to school. In 2025, he was accepted to both Cal State LA and CSUN. He chose to attend Cal State LA, where he is now pursuing a degree in Social Work, driven by a passion to help others overcome the same barriers he once faced.

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Tarzana Treatment Centers

Empowering Change: Transition from Incarceration to Community Advocate

Patricia, a 42-year-old woman, came to Tarzana Treatment Centers (TTC) seeking support after serving seven years in prison. Determined to maintain her sobriety, she completed a 90-day inpatient treatment program. During her stay, Patricia tested positive for HIV, and TTC's staff immediately connected her to comprehensive supportive services at our Reseda location. Patricia also qualified for placement in TTC's Transitional Housing program.

Since entering our program, she has remained in full compliance and has built a strong foundation in her recovery journey. Patricia actively participates in Alcoholics Anonymous, attending at least five meetings each week and maintaining daily contact with her sponsor. She has now been sober for over 18 months.

Patricia's time in TTC's program has also allowed her to explore career development opportunities. She completed an online course through CCAPP and earned her certificate as a Residential Technician in Substance Use Disorder Treatment. Additionally, she attended Los Angeles Career College for phlebotomy training and is currently working on expunging her record in preparation for the state exam.

Driven by a passion for helping others, Patricia began on-the-job training as a Behavioral Technician at Development Pathways in Los Angeles. Her competence and dedication quickly earned her a permanent staff position. Through this work, she has found a deep sense of purpose in supporting individuals who have experienced similar challenges.

TTC continues to witness the amazing progress of this individual and are excited that she has recently been qualified to receive a section 8 voucher.

HOPWA SUCCESS STORIES

Volunteers of America Los Angeles (VOALA)

From Instability to Service and Strength

For many, success isn't about where you start, but about the courage to keep moving forward, even when the odds are stacked against you. Zara embodies that truth. Her journey through the HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS) program is a powerful testament to resilience, determination, and the belief that a brighter future is always within reach.

When Zara first entered the program, she was facing some of the most difficult challenges of her life. She was grappling with housing instability, the emotional toll of her HIV diagnosis, and the heavy burden of stigma. Financial struggles added another layer of hardship, as did the deep uncertainty about whether she would ever be able to rebuild her life and regain her independence.

But Zara never gave up.

With support from the HOPWA program, she gained access to safe and stable housing, mental health resources, and a supportive environment where she could begin to heal and grow. She worked hard to rebuild her confidence, learned to advocate for herself, and set clear goals for her future. Every obstacle, whether finding steady employment, managing her health, or holding on to hope, became a stepping stone toward something greater.

Through perseverance, Zara graduated from the program and took a bold leap into independent living. But her journey didn't end there. Driven by a passion to protect and serve, she pursued a career in law enforcement. Today, she proudly wears her badge as a police officer, proving to herself and the world that she is far more than her struggles—she is strength, she is hope, and she is a role model for others walking a similar path.

Zara's story is one of triumph: from instability to independence, from hardship to honor. She is living proof that success doesn't mean avoiding struggle—it means rising above it. Her journey through HOPWA is more than a personal victory; it's a beacon of hope for others who may feel their dreams are out of reach.