

**PROFILES OF HOPE:** Meet Stacy, a Resident of IOH:

My two daughters are 16 and 10 years old. We moved to IOH just before Christmas and feel blessed to be here.

After a very tough year (financially and otherwise), we were evicted. Once that happened, we couldn't get a place of our own. We were stuck in an extended-stay hotel.

Stuck is a good word for it. I have been employed by a cardiology practice for 9 years and I work hard. But I was paying \$1100/month to keep us in a hotel room, at a place where I feared for my girls' safety. I was having terrible anxiety and literally felt like I couldn't breathe. No matter how hard I worked and scrimped, I couldn't make any progress. We were trapped.

The opportunity at IOH is incredible. Being part of this community has been healing. I am paying off debt and saving as much as possible, but never less than \$500/month. I am cleaning up my credit so our options will be different when we leave. I was afraid we would end up in a shelter, and am so grateful to be at IOH where we are safe, have our own space, and a plan to achieve our goal.

My girls and I are a team, and our goal is to buy a home. We have to sacrifice many things that we want – like my 10 year old going to summer camp – in order to reach this goal. My oldest is a cheerleader, which is very expensive and not something I can pay for right now. I am proud that she got a job at Wendy's this summer and will cover her own cheerleading fees. She's an important part of our team.

Here, I feel like I can breathe again. We are not just surviving, but things are changing. We are making progress and have hope for a stable future.