

**PROFILES OF HOPE:** Meet 'K', a current resident of IOH:

I was born and raised in Atlanta and married very young. I married the class clown. Not the best idea, as it turns out. We divorced after 4 years and two children. He was completely out of the picture and did not pay regular child support despite a court order. The divorce was a pivotal point and began an avalanche of hardships: a job layoff, multiple moves, instability. For 10 years I was strictly in survival mode and eventually we were bouncing between motels, friends' places and even sleeping in our car. I couldn't believe it had come to this. I had my bachelor's degree and a job, yet my children and I were sleeping in a car. It's very hard for me to look back on those days. It's very hard to talk about.

I heard about IOH through a friend at work. We have been here nearly two years and I will graduate next month. Our apartment is just under 500 square feet, but it is our home, the place where we can live together, be safe, and lay our heads down each night.

IOH provided me a chance to stop and breathe, to plan for the future and - most importantly - to save. The savings requirement is the best part about the program. All the experts say to invest in yourself, but that's impossible when every dime goes toward day-to-day survival. Through IOH, I have been able to invest in my family for the first time. I will have over \$10,000 in savings when I graduate next month. My daughter is doing well at the local high school and my son is studying sports management at Georgia State University-Perimeter College. I am going to apply for a mortgage and hope to purchase a home soon after we leave IOH. I know we are going to be okay.