

Dreams of a Brighter Future

Originally from Newfoundland, I moved to Ontario in 2003. I came to find a decent job in hopes of making enough money to help my family. It was a big change for me, I was not used to such a busy life style and extremely surprised with the high rental rates. After spending some time with a family member, I realized I needed my own space.

Unfortunately working part time at minimum wage, I knew this would be impossible. I decided to apply for Niagara Regional Housing. I was accepted and was told the next step was to wait. However, I had no idea it would take so long. With no choice but to wait, that's what I did. I would call NRH every couple of months asking if I was close to the top of the wait list yet, no one could ever give me an answer, I found that to be quite frustrating. I wanted to have my own apartment but did not want to sign any leases in case NRH would contact me. That's the one thing I would change; it would be nice to give clients an indication as to where they stand in regards to wait times. In my situation, I would not risk anything to jeopardize losing my place in the line.

After waiting for a year and a half, I became pregnant. The father left me and moved away. I was then staying with my sister and her husband but they were separating and selling the house. This meant myself and my baby didn't have anywhere to live. I packed a small bag of necessities and walked through the doors of the YWCA homeless shelter. I was extremely frightened and embarrassed. I stayed there for a total of two weeks when NRH called me with the exciting news; there was an apartment available for me. I remember getting off the phone and crying. I was so happy to have a home for my baby girl. Since then, I've had a beautiful baby boy. NRH were nice enough to transfer me to a three bedroom to accommodate my growing family. I am quite content living in this house, that I can call my home.

NRH is a wonderful resource for people like me. People who have struggles and want the best for themselves and their families. The waiting can be long and frustrating, but the payoff is sweet. Look at me....I have a safe, comfortable home for my two children, and this would never have been possible without God and Niagara Regional Housing.

Charlene B.
Tenant since 2005