

# The Story Page

Stories of Hope and Healing

## Katherine's and Rita's Houses offer women in recovery the chance to dream

When Sam\* arrived at Rita's House she was four months sober and experiencing homelessness. Sam had been eager to get into the program and called every day for weeks before there was an opening. Rita's House and Katherine's House, programs of CCS, are innovative transitional housing programs for homeless adult women in recovery from substance use.

At Rita's House, Sam appreciated the discipline where everyone is responsible for specific chores. Staff encouraged her to take one-step at a-time to the completion of her twelve step AA program. Before COVID-19, the houses began to allow resident's children and emotional support animals to come and stay. This addition made a big difference to the mental and emotional health of the residents. Sam saw her son every weekend and worked on building a stronger relationship.

"For many of these women, because of trauma, education and self- confidence has been stolen from them," according to Gretchen Marshall, Program Supervisor. "They have not had the chance to think about what they want to do or who they want to be. Their time in the houses helps them begin to dream and work toward their dreams and goals."

Gretchen encouraged Sam to go to school and walked Sam through the application process for student financial aid. After a life of distrusting banks, staff helped Sam open a bank account. Sam used her bank account to deposit the money she made working the job she had while living at Rita's House.

The women and staff at Katherine's and Rita's houses became Sam's family. When it came time for Sam to leave the house, she rented a room with an AA friend. Sam paid off all of her debts, earned her degree, and married. Last year, Sam started working for the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program at CCS and not long after was promoted to Case Manager!

Sam shares that because of AA and the caring support of staff, she found needed stability, discipline, and responsibility while at Rita's House. "I have an amazing life," she says, and "the houses made me fall in love with CCS!"

\*name has been changed



## REAL IMPACT BECAUSE OF YOU

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*Many women [in addiction recovery] have not had the chance to think about what they want to do or who they want to be and their time in the houses helps them begin to dream and work toward their dreams and goals.*

*- Gretchen Marshall,  
Rita's House Program Manager*



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