



## Tenant Stories

Lashonda Campbell

Michigan - 2011 Julie Sandorf Award Winner



Lashonda Campbell was born in Benton Harbor, Michigan, where she continues to live and work. She is a mother of four children who were taken in 2005; Lashonda says her children “are the reason she still stands” and prays for the day they will stand together again as a family. She lost her Mom in 2003, and lost her home shortly after that to a fire, staying with friends and family, at times having no place to rest her head.

Lashonda says that through her struggle, God placed some great people in her life. She entered the Emergency Shelter Services, Inc. shelter as a client in 2008, after two years of homelessness. She received a 2-year TIPLAP voucher and finally had a place to call her own. In the years since, she worked several jobs simultaneously, her favorite being a shift supervisor at the shelter she once called home.

This past fall she moved off of the TIPLAP voucher and is completely self-sufficient. She was recently promoted and now works as a Case Manager/ Housing Resource Assistant. She loves that her job allows her to direct others through her own experiences with homelessness, while also tending to her own personal healing process. Lashonda attended Grand Rapids Job Corps in 1991, where she completed a certificate as a Brake and Tune Up technician and received her GED. Lashonda plans to go back to school to study Social Work and describes herself as strong, a dreamer, and a faithful believer of God. She is a writer and hopes to one day author a top-selling novel called "Testimony of a Diamond in the Dirt."

Lashonda uses her personal story and experiences to motivate others and has made a definite impact.