

SPEAK UP

Dorothy shares her story of homelessness to supportive housing.

I am safe and secure, happy to be alive.

During the 2011 homeless census I was found sleeping on a sofa outside Goodwill in the donations area. I was now considered chronically homeless and most likely to die on the streets within a year. Because of people reaching out to me I was saved from myself. I was taught through being loved to love myself.

I have a wonderful home today for my dog and I. I am safe and secure, happy to be alive. I am 17 months clean and sober, huge considering I spent 40 years in my addiction that I never believed I could get out from under.

Today I am just like those of you who helped save me. We are in the business of bringing the unseen back into view, offering up a second chance to the hopeless and placing value back into the souls of those who like myself were once lost.

Speak Up is an initiative of CSH to help residents of supportive housing learn the art of story telling to share their impactful stories with elected officials, the press and the community at large. Their honest and firsthand accounts of lives transformed from homelessness to lives full of purpose and hope, the Speak Up participants have become effective advocates for supportive housing, from Sacramento to Capitol Hill.

More information about Speak Up is available at csh.org

