



# SPEAK UP

Terrence shares his story of homelessness to supportive housing.

*I wake up every day and I feel good.*

When you have your own place, you can go out and make your mistakes and go home, go to bed, and wake up the next day and say “Ok, I made a mistake... [it’s not the end of the world, what can I do better today].” The way homeless life treats you, if you make a mistake you get kicked out and have to start all over again. Having a house protects you-- when you're homeless, you can always end up in the wrong place at the wrong time. For the first time in 40 years I actually feel like I’m living. Moving into a house, you get to learn who you are. I'm learning who I am for the first time in my life. Your space is your space and it means a lot.

Everyone should have a place to stay, and it shouldn't be on the side of a freeway. I slept by the side of the freeway a few years ago-- during the rainy season. I can deal with life so much better now. It's independence I've never had before. And I love it! I wake up every day and I feel good.



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](http://csh.org)