

# SPEAK UP

Wallace shares his story of homelessness to supportive housing.

*I feel like I've been given a second chance.*

I actually feel I was lucky because prior to being homeless I had given a ride to a friend in need of social services -- so when I hit rock bottom I at least had a sense of where to turn for help. But even so, it was like navigating a maze and I kept running into roadblocks. Fortunately, I eventually met a case worker who then made it her mission to help me. She pointed me in the direction that led to permanent supportive housing at the Vendome Palms Apartments, where I've been for the last 2 years.

Now I feel like I've been given a second chance and I'm taking advantage of all the services available to me. I'm learning computing and I hope to earn a Bachelor of Science degree. I'm making something of myself and I want to give back and help others who are in the same position I was in. Through supportive housing, I have been able to lay a new foundation for myself. I look forward to building on that foundation.

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)

