



H.E.A.R.T Alliance for Sustainable Families

Alison's Story:

Alison, a young mother of a 1 year old boy, was enrolled in HEART on February 20, 2014 after her and her son, Joseph, had been struggling with homelessness over the last year. Alison's parents are deceased, and she was raised by a maternal aunt since the age of 2. Since the age of 5 they have had several repeated episodes of homelessness due to her aunt's inconsistent employment and her uncle's death, sleeping at bus stops and in front of public buildings.

Alison, who was living at a shelter at the time of HEART enrollment, is ambitious, friendly, and optimistic while looking for better opportunities for her and her son. Alison has worked diligently with her case manager to search for an apartment and with her life coach for employment, never giving up hope that her son's life was changing for the better. Even though Alison was not always feeling well, she was eagerly engaged.

Recently, Alison was hospitalized and was diagnosed with Lupus. Due to Alison's fear of what to do with her infant son, without family support, income, or insurance, she had waited months forgoing treatment. When HEART learned of Alison's condition, the team found care for her son, took her to the hospital and stayed in contact with her while finding her permanent residence. When HEART learned of Alison hospital discharge date, the team rallied together to surprise her by furnishing and moving all of her belongings into her new apartment. HEART case managers and life coaches spent an entire day cleaning, unpacking, and arranging Alison's new home. Alison was overjoyed when she walked into her apartment for the first time. Her son was overjoyed with his room and toys. Moreover, he was happy to be in a stable environment with his mother.

Now that she is in a stable home, the HEART Team rallies around her to provide the necessary tools so she can stay independent. Alison meets with her case manager weekly to assist her in scheduling medical appointments, maintaining housing stability, focusing on parenting, attending counseling, and much more. Alison then meets with her life coach bi-weekly for budgeting support, and educational and employment opportunities. Alison is working with Legal Aid to resolve her legal matters.

A strong woman, Alison won't allow her disease to take over her life. She continues to work toward her goal of becoming a forensic psychologist while being the best mother she can be for her son. Alison that is very grateful for HEART's love and support and considers the team as the family she never had but always needed!



The HEART Team helping clean and decorate Alison's new home.