

# Giving Hope

Looking at John's\* past, it's easy to see how a person can lose hope. Difficult situations can quickly leave a person with very few options.

His limited financial situation did not afford him many choices. "Disability ran out fast," John states frankly. "If I could find a place to live, I couldn't have a car, insurance, food, things like that."

**"Extended Housing gave me the opportunity to be independent."**

John's personal situation left him homeless for approximately 5 years, off and on. He says, "Being homeless was embarrassing. When you're homeless, you're so depressed; it's hard to get out of that hole."

A visit with community resources in Painesville put him in touch with Extended Housing. The staff assessed John's need not only for housing, but also for services that would help him to be successful in rebuilding his life. John credits this support and encouragement as the key to helping him get a fresh start. "They were there every step of the way and they made it so easy," beams John. "They are 1,000% positive and gave me every possible resource."

## They Gave Me Another Chance

Thanks to Extended Housing, John has lived independently in his apartment and homelessness is something in the past. Though it "wasn't a quick fix", John feels

it put him in a better position not only with his lifestyle but with accountability and gratitude.



Now that John has a home, he has also been able to secure a car, car insurance, and some of the other daily necessities that many people take for granted. Now that he is beginning to find some work, he is finding more satisfaction in his life.

"I didn't care enough before," shares John. "Now, I just bought a living room set on my own, without any help. It makes me feel so good."

Extended Housing works with individuals like John to set small goals. These skills not only help individuals find meaning and success, but also to begin to dream. For John, he says, "My goal down the road is to maybe start a business. I'm thinking about it."

Through services like Shelter Plus Care, Extended Housing clients earn credits and share in the cost of a home, such as an apartment. It helps individuals like John to move from a homeless shelter to rebuilding an independent life.

"I have a social life, and I'm not depressed now, says John. "The biggest thing, they gave me hope."

*\*The subject's name has been changed to protect his identity.*

## A Home. A Hand. A Fresh Start.

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