

From homeless to shelter and employment: Temple City Coalition, community help woman regain independence

A homeless grandmother's journey

The Temple City Coalition (TCC) first met Jeannie (not her real name) and her 4-year-old grandson, whom she has raised since birth, on a rainy night in November 2017 at a motel in South El Monte. Their two-day stay, provided by Volunteers of America (VOA), was ending and Jeannie called Temple City Coalition for help. TCC offered to help Jeannie navigate housing programs.

The immediate challenge was temporary housing. Donations provided more motel nights. Soon thereafter, VOA agreed to take Jeannie into their permanent housing program, pay for move-in expenses and subsidize the rent for several months.

Finding a landlord to accept Jeannie was difficult because of the absence of a credit and job history. An apartment manager in El Monte agreed to give Jeannie a chance. TCC quickly arranged for furniture donations. As a result, Jeannie and her grandson celebrated Christmas in a home, their own apartment.

Then, unexpectedly, Jeannie was gifted with a donated car. Next, Jeannie received a job offer, although she had not worked since 2005.

When VOA support ended, the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVdP), St. Luke Conference, continued the rent subsidy.

Today, Jeannie has a working car, a better apartment, a new job, and a bank account. She continues to care for her grandson and credits her faith for redemption from



Jeannie's new apartment offers a ray of hope.



Jeannie's new home offers a bright kitchen with plenty of cabinet storage.

her old life, a history of early pregnancy, unfinished high school, gangs, drugs, prison time, and homelessness.

TCC and SSVdP accompanied Jeannie on her

journey and continue to advocate for those in need of help. For information, phone: 626-286-3129.

This story was published with the consent of Jeannie, whose name has been changed to protect her privacy.