Success Stories

Jose's Story

Jose is a 76-year old Veteran with a positive outlook on life and a pleasing demeanor. He is always courteous and helpful and lightens up the darkest of hearts.
When Jose came to TAC, he was banned from another agency for what were seen as inappropriate behaviors. We were warned that he was a danger and a threat to the agency. We still gave Jose a chance to participate in agency services and he flourished. The Self-empowerment component of IL philosophy really did wonders for his self-confidence and mood. He loves to be in charge of life and make decisions over issues that affect him.
Jose was homeless and refused to live in a home, saying he was saving money by living under a local bridge. However, a cold winter changed his mentality. With the support of CIL staff, who guided Jose, he was able to find his own apartment in a building with a small yard where on some days he is delighted to see a neighbor's cat. Jose emphasizes the huge sense of accomplishment he experienced when he secured his own home and received resources from the TAC like furniture because it felt like a very personal victory, not a handout. It means so much to him to have a key to his own front door.

Wanda's Story

Wanda has gone through many difficult experiences in her life, but has managed to turn things around through her own tenacity and the support she has received TAC. When she was younger she was a victim of domestic abuse. This, in her words, "snatched her identity away" and destroyed her self-confidence.

Wanda experienced a horrific car accident that left her with limited mobility. Living in a rural community, she chose her daughter as her care giver. Through Outreach at a senior center in Wanda's community, we got a tip that something was not right in Wanda's home.

TAC staff visited Wanda's home and quickly realized something was definitely wrong. The overwhelming smell of rotting flesh and human waste was too much to bear. Authorities were immediately contacted and Wanda was removed from her home and her daughter faced charges for neglect, exploitation and abuse. Gradually, Wanda, recovered and was returned to her home with another care giver. Through weekly visits and collaboration with area partnerships for peer support, she regained her lost confidence and became a great self-advocate. She is a tireless campaigner for those who face challenges because she knows that that with guidance and compassion anyone can succeed in turning around their lives just as she has.

Rosemary's Story

Rosemary was victimized immediately after she became a widow. A group of unscrupulous individuals approached her as a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people with disabilities and became her Social Security Representative for benefits. They stole her money for many months without no one doing anything. They even attempted to get Rosemary to sign over her property. Through advocacy work where other Consumers of TAC had been approached by these people, we discovered Rosemary.

Rosemary had gone months without utilities and only survived on the kindness of her neighbors. We immediately got the authorities involved and transferred Payee Representatives for Rosemary. We had the group arrested for their crimes. We got Rosemary back on track with her utilities and home. Got Rosemary caregiver services.

Rosemary says she should have never depended so much on her husband but always believed in the good of people. One day Rosemary dreams of even opening her own non-profit to help families who find themselves living on the streets because she almost experienced that. Through TAC, the horizon on a more stable life has opened up for Rosemary and she has used that to refocus her life on making a contribution to society.

Maria's Story

Maria was a teacher's assistant and worked other jobs her entire life. She loved helping people and being involved in her community. A broken hip and complications left her institutionalized. Due to memory loss issues, her stay became longer and it seemed this nursing home would now be her home. When we met Maria, she was wheel-chair bound and needed several medications to cope with her issues. We did an assessment and discovered Maria was an ideal candidate for transition. We did the ground work to transition her and even placed her back in home.

Maria now walks with minimal assistance and does not take any medications. She says, "TAC saved me from that prison. I literally felt I was dying every day and I couldn't do anything about it." Maria is an active member of her church and loves to take drives through the pecan orchards in the area.

Tommy's Story

Tommy is a jack-of-all trades. He has done it all and if he can't do it, will learn it. He owned a successful body shop until he was the victim of brutal beating due to mistaken identity. He was beaten by four men, rolled in a rug, and thrown into the Rio Grande. Tommy is an individual with a Traumatic Brain Injury.

Tommy began coming to TAC's peer support meeting, participating in gardening and painting. Gradually, Tommy regained his confidence and began regaining his memory and abilities. Always with a penchant for perfection, he stated he could not paint and refurbish cars like he before (although from what we saw, he could). But always the

entrepreneur, he wanted to open his own landscaping business. With TAC staff direction and support plus training, Tommy has a successful landscaping business and employs two additional persons with disabilities for his crew. He says people with disabilities need work and to be kept busy. They are just like everyone else just learning to hit a curveball life threw at them (Tommy's an avid baseball fan). TAC still helps Tommy with training on invoicing, legal obligations of a business, and scheduling etc.