



Blessed Souls: *Challenges and Accomplishments* of MHOH Community Members

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Meet Andrea

I would like to thank my Lord, my Father, and my love of Christ for everything He blesses me with and for always being with me especially through my trials and tribulations.

When I felt like giving up, as if I had nothing left to give, He lifted my spirit and embraced me with His love and compassion and assured me everything would be just fine. When I had hardly any money to my name, two children, and nowhere to call home, He opened His doors for me. In 2018 my youngest son and I lived in a shelter. My oldest son was not in my custody, and I was barely able to provide for the child I did have. There were many families ahead of me on the housing waiting list. I had about one week remaining to stay at the shelter until I had to find another.

My son and I got up early to get breakfast and get ready for the day as usual when one morning went quite differently.

The lady who did intakes for the shelter saw me getting Isaiah ready for the day. She stopped by my room, handed me a phone number, and said that she wanted me to make this call. I asked about who it was, and she said that hopefully it will be a place which you could call home. Sure enough! Just in the nick of time! One week before Isaiah and I were ready to go find another shelter, my Lord, once again, was there for me.

He provided a home! I was blessed with so much more than just a place to call home. Mary's Homes of Hope and Miss Lynn Reid welcomed my son and me as if we were family, with a place to stay and so much more. We grew stronger in our faith. I explained to Miss Lynn how I had lost custody of my oldest son and how I hoped and prayed to get him back someday. I started working and saved up enough money to actually afford my own place to call home and I moved out two years

later. I was able to get my son, Isaiah, baptized. I followed through with the lawyer to whom Miss Lynn referred me and I was blessed and granted custody of my oldest son Armani. I can't express in words enough how grateful I am for everything I've been through and how much of a blessing Miss Lynn and Mary's Homes of Hope has been for my family and me.

Within two years I was able to get back on my feet, baptized my youngest son, get custody of my oldest son, have him complete his first holy communion and his confirmation, afford my own place to live, and drive my own vehicle with dignity and strong faith. With God anything is possible.

May God continue to bless Miss Lynn and the community that supports Mary's Homes of Hope and continue to help more young mothers, like myself, become independent and strong in their faith.

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Meet Vicki

Vicki has lived in the home for four years. She came to us as she was about to become homeless with no place to go. She had a part-time job and was working towards full-time. She was invited to be part of Mary's Homes of Hope.

Shortly after moving into MHOH she got her full-time job. Since then, she's been promoted and can work from home which allows her to take better care of her chronic health challenges. She's faithful, peaceful, prayerful, and shares

her God-given gifts with others in community that makes a difference in their lives. She doesn't give in to her health issues because she knows God is her accomplishment.

Meet Theresa

Theresa found Mary's Homes of Hope in a resource book. Theresa needed direction to get out of a violent living situation with her daughters. MHOH was able to guide her to more

specific care for her mental health needs. Then through mental health care get her a place with the professional help she needs. She keeps in touch as we continue to be a part of her

family that listens to her and prays for her.



Meet Alanoud

Alanoud came to Our Lady's home in January 2022. The Mother Superior of the Poor Clares called one snowy night. She was trying to help Alanoud find a place to live. Alanoud had been kicked out of where she was living. She

needed a place to stay until the end of January. She was returning to her home in Saudi Arabia. We took her in, and she was thankful for a safe, loving, and peaceful home. She shared that by returning home that she was probably looking at a very suppressive way of living even to the point

of being life-threatening. She asked if she could stay. Of course, the answer was, "YES!" During the six months she was here she worked hard to accomplish goals that would get her a job and a place of her own. She also worked on going back to college.