

Feb. 27 2024

TO THE
HOUSING AUTHORITY
STAFF THAT COMES TO
INSPECT MY ROOM
PLEASE READ MY
ATTACHED LETTER OF THANKS!
IT WOULD MEAN SO MUCH TO ME

Donna Mack

To the Housing Commission & you incredible people
that will enter my room today for inspection,

I am writing this letter to express the profound
gratitude for the life-changing opportunity your
organization along with Father Joe's Villages has
given me.

For a decade, I found myself in the throes
of homelessness and the prospect of getting out of
this tumultuous, terrifying and desperate situation
was impossible. I had become resigned to the fact
that this was my life now.

I once had an incredible life - I was a public school
teacher, happily married, homeowner and a dedicated
community member. At 44 years old, I began
experiencing symptoms that I now know is my
bipolar disease. I had 15 years sober but began
drinking again to quiet my thoughts. I soon
lost all I ever loved or worked hard for.

Around 2021, I heard about the potential
housing help one could get at one of the shelters.
I literally chased the HOT TEAM van on foot
for 3 days until two wonderful officers
secured me a bed.

And almost 3 years later, here I am at Benson Place.

Because of you and the Housing authority I received this studio which is my sweet home and stands for hope, resilience and the opportunity to build my life with a new purpose

Because of you, I have worked full time for the last 18 months at a law firm, have been able to get great mental health care, and just the ability to stabilize so that any of my goals could be obtainable.

So, I want to express my deepest appreciation to the entire Housing Authority who extended a helping hand up when I needed it most and for creating such avenues of change for me - Me an old homeless woman drunk with mental illness.

I was forgotten, discarded and a blight on Society...

And then you came along and proved to me that I still mattered and that God wanted me to continue.

I really love you all

Donna Mack