

## Courage to Share (cont'd)



For years, Michelle and her long-time partner had shared the costs of housing. During the Spring, however, Michelle's entire life turned upside down. Her long-term relationship ended; she and her son had to move out.

**Even with solid employment history, no evictions and a working knowledge of the leasing process, Michelle couldn't find a new apartment.**

Michelle didn't have enough in savings to pay the double security deposit and first month's rent required – a sum of more than \$3,000. Desperate, she turned to Always Home for help. Social Worker Marlynn Benker provided Michelle with the caring and nonjudgmental guidance she needed to regain hope and move forward. Together, they re-worked Michelle's monthly budget and calculated how much financial assistance was needed to secure a new apartment.

This September, with your support, Always Home paid the security deposit and partial first month's rent for Michelle and her son's new two-bedroom apartment. Furnished with generous in-kind donations, mother and son have made their new apartment a home. She recently wrote, "I cannot express how thankful I am for your generosity. You and your agency are amazing and my son & I are super grateful for you!"

## Keeping Kids Housed (cont'd)



Always Home's programs focus on protecting the housing stability of families. We provide integrated, holistic support to help parents overcome their immediate housing crisis and build security for their children.

Case management is the primary tool we use to halt evictions, maintain housing stability and prevent homelessness or shelter stays.

**The best way to create lasting change for families is to respond to their crisis, not react to it.**

We work alongside families to create individualized housing stabilization plans and workable budgets. We eliminate obstacles, like lack of transportation or childcare, that prevent a parent from working. We negotiate with landlords or soothe family relations to save housing situations. And when necessary, we provide targeted financial assistance to help families recover.

When parents have stable housing, they can focus on other basic needs like employment, food security, and their children's health and education. The economic impacts of COVID will be deep and lasting for many of our region's families. By safeguarding housing now, we can give families a platform from which to begin their own economic recovery.