



Rose and her sister squeezed in the backseat of the family's sedan, sandwiched between their belongings. They only brought what they could fit in their car and got rid of everything else.

Rose's family left Illinois, a place they had previously called home. Rose's mom was convinced by a life-long friend to uproot her family and relocated to the desert – to start over. It was a promise for help and a new beginning in a different state, city, and community that would be free from the gangs and violence they knew.

Upon their arrival in Arizona, their place to stay fell through, the money was nearly gone, and they had nowhere to go. Desperately, they resorted to seeking out homeless shelters and found their way to the Family Housing Hub. Their hearts sank when they found out that there was an eight week-long waiting list. "I had to sleep in the trunk," Rose shared, "there wasn't much room;

my mom and step-dad had the front seats laid back and my sister slept across the back seat.”

For the next two months, the family moved from park to park and found streetlights for a sense of safety. During the day, they would use public restrooms to maintain their hygiene, brushing their teeth, washing their faces and combing their hair. They would eat a loaf of bread and pack of lunch meat from the grocery store for meals. It wasn't easy but they knew help was just around the corner.

Finally, the family was able to move into the UMOM family emergency shelter where they were thankful to have a safe place to sleep and three hot meals a day. But it was the case management and supportive services that proved to be everything they needed to get on their feet again.

From the employment center, to help finding an apartment, to the Boys and Girls Club for Rose, the family was able to find jobs, an apartment, and get back to their normal life.

“I'm ready to move out of UMOM because I know there are other families out there who need to shower and place to sleep too,” said Rose. Although anxious to have her own room again, Rose also saw the great need for others in our community.