

## **Tamar's Client Success Story**

In February of 2020, Heather\* (name changed) was sleeping at the cold shelter at Prince of Peace when she met another woman experiencing homelessness who told her she could come to Tamar's to get a shower and some clean clothing.

Heather had been living on the street as a result of a major depressive disorder and past concerns related to alcohol use. After approximately two weeks of Tamar staff bringing Heather to Shelterhouse on a daily basis, she was able to move into the shelter and get off the street. Heather continued to come to Tamar during the days and worked to find employment, which she soon found working in a warehouse. After securing employment, Heather started to look for a place to live. Staff at Tamar took her to apartments to meet with potential landlords.

Heather found the perfect apartment for her, located on a bus line and within a short distance of a grocery store and other needed services. The apartment was within her budget, and she had enough saved to already pay first month's rent, but she needed some help coming up with the deposit. At the same time, a generous donor had contacted Franciscan Ministries and let us know that she and her husband were looking to make a donation for the benefit of a client at Tamar's. They decided to assist Heather with not just her deposit, but also her first month's rent. As Heather moved in, Tamar's staff were able to give her a referral to New Life Furniture, who delivered living room, kitchen, and bedroom furniture to her new place.

Heather continued to stay in contact with Tamar's staff, primarily for emotional support and encouragement, which helped her stay on track when she felt discouraged along the way. When discussing how Tamar staff has helped her, Heather said, "Giving faith to someone who has none is an endless gift! I have nothing but gratitude."

Heather has since received two promotions and several raises in her short time with her employer. She regularly receives compliments from other professionals in the field, leading to several cash bonuses. She has worked hard to maintain all her bills and save money, while consistently paying her rent up to two months in advance. In the next week, she will receive another wonderful gift from the Sisters in the form a donated car! Since she was saving to be able to buy her own, she already has the resources set aside to be able to pay for her insurance and any other expenses related to having a car.

In just a year and half, Heather, with the support of Tamar staff and donors, has gone from unemployed and sleeping in doorways downtown to employed in a well-paying career with her own apartment, all during an unprecedented global pandemic. When looking back at the last year and a half, Heather said, "It's like my entire life changed the moment I walked through your door."