



DOING THE MOST GOOD™

Success Story

Drew from Barnabas Apartments

Drew is a 19 year old, a young man that moved into Barnabas Apartments during the summer months of 2010. Drew came to us from the Midwest, where he dropped out of school, got into some serious legal trouble, and was involved in gang activity. He came to Syracuse to stay with a family friend, but that option fell through for him. Drew chose to live life on the streets of Syracuse, experiencing drugs and violence, with no job and no school.

He spent a couple of nights on the street and another few nights in the bus station until he was directed toward The Salvation Army Barnabas Apartments. Within the first few months Drew was enrolled in school and had a part time job. He continued to do well for several weeks, but then things began to slide. Drew got into a physical altercation at school and was kicked out. Feeling as though he was a failure, Drew left Syracuse without speaking with staff and hitch-hiked back to his hometown. While Drew was there, he called the staff at Barnabas several times stating that he was being tempted again by his old lifestyle of violence, trouble, drugs and thoughts of suicide.

Recently, Drew called and asked if he could come back “home” to Syracuse and live at Barnabas Apartments. He stated that the only time he was ever doing well in his life was during the months that he lived with us. About a week later, Drew arrived in Syracuse, submitted an application for housing at Barnabas Apartments and began following the same steps to success that he had already walked with us so many months before.

Although Drew started again from scratch, he quickly got back on his feet. Within a short time, Drew enrolled in a GED class and is scheduled to take his GED Exam very soon. He obtained his driver’s license, purchased a used car and recently secured a full time job at Wal-Mart.

Most importantly, Drew has remained drug-free and trouble free since his return back to Syracuse. Now when Drew talks about the Midwest, he refers to it as a place that he once visited during a darker period of his life. And when Drew speaks about Syracuse, he does so as someone describing his “home.”