

Success Story: Mable Carrier

Mable Carrier grew up in the hills of Kentucky on an isolated tobacco farm, where she could only complete an eighth-grade education. She received her GED later, after relocating to Atlanta in 1965 and took a few college courses. While working a job as a graveyard-shift security guard, she divorced her husband and became estranged from her two children.

In the following years, Mable became a victim of an array of illnesses. She contracted pneumonia and suffered through a heart attack. In that same year her boyfriend of 10 years died, reducing her income and leading to her first and only experience with homelessness in 2006.



While she was in the hospital recovering, she was linked with a social worker. The social worker suggested she connect with the **24/7 Gateway Homeless Services Center**, a resource and service center. There, she was set up with social security benefits. She says the people at the Gateway Center were more than supportive during her recovery. "They were extremely helpful and they befriended me in a time when I was lonely and vulnerable," she says of the staff. Mable was then able to obtain housing through her case manager, Phil Hunter. She now stays in Baptist Towers, a high-rise for retired seniors like herself. She now spends her days reading, decorating and just generally making the most out of her retirement. She now refers to herself as blessed and independent and thanks God everyday.

"I'm grateful that he [God] created us all and allowed me to encounter many helpful people while I was struggling," she says. "Not only the case workers, but the other homeless people helped take care of me when I was sick, and that was the most surprising part," adds Mable. These experiences made her realize that people can be decent human beings. Many have become homeless due to bad circumstances and she doesn't want people to stereotype homelessness. Overall, Mable can now say that she is independent and happy, and made herself so with the help of agencies in Atlanta and the loving and caring community surrounding her.

This story was written using interviews conducted by Celebrating Success volunteers Amanda Crumby of United Way of Metro Atlanta, Joyce Grangent of CSH and Logan Winkles of Kilpatrick Stockton LLP.

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