

Denise

SAMARITAN HOUSE WOMEN'S SHELTER AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM CLIENT

My life completely changed when my husband and I separated. My son and I had to move out right away. We found a room, but I knew it was not the right place to raise my son. I couldn't afford anything else in Westchester County.

I was working for a non-profit organization and also doing per diem work at a Yonkers shelter when my supervisor suggested I reach out to Lifting Up Westchester (LUW) for help. **LUW helped me find a safe, two-bedroom apartment for us.**

Later, when my son moved into his own place, LUW helped me find a one-bedroom apartment for myself.

This time of stability ended in 2017 when I was diagnosed with severe scoliosis. I could barely walk, and I couldn't function. I had no relatives living in New York and no support. Because I couldn't work, I ended up homeless and found help at Samaritan House.

The case workers got me into a Supportive Housing Program, which helps people with health issues. LUW covers 60% of the rent and I cover the rest. Financially it is still really hard because I get social security disability and it's not a lot.

It's been very stressful, and I've done many nights crying. But **I thank God for Lifting Up Westchester. Without them, I would be on the street.**

