



## **Jan's Journey to Independence**



At just 18, Jan was doing everything right. She had her own apartment, a steady job, and plans for her future. Then, almost overnight, everything changed. She lost her job, her apartment, and eventually, all she had left was her car. For two years, that car became her home—a place where she did her best to stay safe, sleep, and find a way forward.

Then, one day, she saw a flyer for VHBG's Outreach Services for young adults. That small piece of paper changed everything. Soon after, Jan met a VHBG Outreach Worker who helped her enroll in services and connected her to VHBG's Housing Support Program at

Pride Place: a safe, affirming environment for young adults working toward stability.

For the first time in years, Jan had a bed to sleep in, a kitchen to cook in, and a door she could lock behind her. But more than that, she had people in her corner. Working side-by-side with her Housing Support Specialist, Jan began addressing the barriers that had contributed to her homelessness. She learned budgeting and life skills, built a supportive network, and found a renewed sense of confidence and purpose.

Before long, Jan secured part-time work as a certified nursing assistant (CNA). With encouragement and support from her VHBG team, she set her sights higher—enrolling in a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) program. She is now on track to graduate in April 2026 and will soon transition into stable housing through Rapid Rehousing.

Pride Place gave Jan more than a roof over her head—it helped her develop the skills to rebuild her life. Her determination, coupled with the wraparound support she found through VHBG, transformed crisis into opportunity and survival into independence.