

## SHANE

Ever since 1997, off and on for the last 26 years, I've had homeless problems. I've been in and out of shelters, sleeping on couches. And finally, I got some stability in 2018 when reStart rescued me. My faith in God is very strong. Even when I wanted to give up, I kept going to him and he kept waking me up every day and saying, hey, we got to go out there and keep fighting. Without God, I don't know where I'd be. Without my family and their support, I don't know where I'd be.

Every time he wakes me up in the morning, I know I have a chance every day. And that's what keeps me going. We've been Amanda for a night. But your comes in the morning, and if you just give your life to God, he'll make a difference. I'm living proof. My testimony is very great because God lifted me from the depths of despair. And if he can do it for me, if he would do it for me, he would do it for everybody. I'm no different from anybody else, but I have God on my side. And that makes me think that I have a fighting chance to deal with anything.

The hardest thing about being homeless was just not being self-sufficient. Not having any independence, not having my own place to call my home. Moving from place to place and sleeping in shelters. And sometimes even outside. I just never had my own place. But that all changed in 2018. Keeping and maintaining employment is definitely one of the most challenging things about getting out of homelessness. It's been a big challenge, but I don't know, just finding the right resources and finding the right people to listen to my story and make a difference. I found that before it was a lot of people saying that they could help but really didn't know how. reStart took care of that for me.

Live each day like they may be your last. Live each day with joy, peace and humility. Stay humble. Stay hungry. But love one another. Love each other as you love yourself as an inner peace that's not love, love. There's not enough compassion in the world today. So I would say just have a little bit of compassion for somebody because you never know what they're going through. They could be on the edge at a time where you might pull them back from the edge. Just watch what you say and how you treat people, because you never know when you might save somebody's life by something that you said that was kind to them.

My dream is to own my own home. That would be a dream come true. Have a room for my grandson when he comes to visit on the weekends. Be gainfully employed with no chances of losing my job. And to be totally secure in my relationship with God. I mean, I'm secure now, but just to be totally immersed in his presence. That's my dream. Home is much more than just a place to dwell. It's a place to pray, to worship, to sleep, to eat. It's everything. And I'm so grateful that I have a home because I went so long without one.

But humility got me a home. Being totally honest, pouring out my heart got me a home. And I would never take that for granted for anything.

I think if we just looked out for one another more and just said the simple words, "How are you doing today", that would uplift so many people. Some people don't get to hear that enough. Some people don't get to hear it at all. But I think if we just looked out for one another as much as we could, we'd have so much more peace and understanding and compassion.