

HEAR FROM A VETERAN

"My name is Carlos Rosario and I currently reside at the Veterans' Victory House at Transitional Living Center. You're probably wondering as to how I ended up living at TLC. Well, I fell victim to the recession and became a casualty of the economy.



"I will start by giving you a little bit of my background. I have a Bachelors Degree and 10+ years of experience in business. I have been an Assistant Director of Business Development for Toyota, a Manager in the Army and a Supervisor for an apparel distributor, to name a few of the occupations I have been involved with.

"I originally came to Lancaster from Jacksonville, FL with one goal ...to move closer to my 10 year old son, Isaiah. I had it all planned out. Or so I thought. I found out quickly that the recession was not only in Jacksonville, FL, but in Lancaster, PA, aswell. It took only a month for my savings to dwindle. Needless to say I was soon literally living out of my car!

"The following is the actual email I sent to Tabor Community Services on August 5, 2011:

Hello Wendy,

My name is Carlos Rosario, I recently traveled to Lancaster, PA to pursue job opportunities that fell through and now I've found myself living out of my car. I have a 10 year old son who lives in Lancaster; hence the reason for me attempting to move here ... to be closer to him. I have a Florida I.D. and everything I own is in my car with me. I'm also a veteran and am willing to do anything to get on my feet. I guess what I'm trying to ask is if Tabor Community Services is an option for me? I own a laptop and that is why I am able to email you using Wi-Fi hot spots around town.

"That email changed my life!

"The Veterans' Victory House is part of a network of hope here in Lancaster, PA. It consists of Veteran Affairs Representatives, Career Link Representatives, Case Managers, Churches and, most ofall, volunteers, some who used to reside at TLC. I don't know where I would be today if I hadn't sent that email. I remember how good it felt to get the keys to my very own room with bath. I received food, toiletries, but most of all I received a brand new family.

"Today, I am proud to say I am a Strategic Sourcing Procurement Specialist for USM Services, a subsidiary of the fortune 500 company Emcore. Because of all the help I received from TLC and its network of hard working individuals. TLC has given me another blessing in that my son lives two blocks away from the Veterans' Victory House which allows me to see him every day. My son and I thank you, TLC."

