



SUCCESS STORIES

Jane* came to us with very little, she needed counseling and a place to live. She was placed in our shelter and began attending domestic violence groups at our Outreach facility. Soon she was able to move out of the shelter and moved into her own apartment. She recently received her EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) State License and accredits Valley Oasis with helping her get life on track and the success she has achieved.



When **Mary*** came to our program, she had no place of her own, no vehicle, no job, a lack of education, as well as Domestic Violence issues. Mary was struggling with drug addiction, an open case with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and issues of anger towards her abusive husband who she was trying to divorce.

Along with great understanding, constant participation and output within the program, Mary managed to successfully obtain her GED, enroll in college where she is now high grades. She was obtained her own vehicle, an apartment, and began working at AV Animal Shelter.

Mary has been drug free for over a year now; had her DCFS case successfully closed, completed anger management classes on her own volition. She filed and later obtained her divorce, and is now in a healthy relationship with another man. Mary attributes a lot of her success to the tools she was given at Valley Oasis, and appreciates all staff's involvement for their constant guidance & encouragement.



The letter below came from a **client** who is a 62 year old woman with multiple disabilities. With the assistance of Valley Oasis Homeless Access Center she is now living in a home where she takes care of an elderly woman in exchange for free room and board.

To whom it concern:

When I, came to the Valley Oasis Homeless Access Center I had been homeless for six months, I had lost my job, then my Condo and had been turned away by my family, I was destitute and living on the streets and in my car. Everything was looking dim and hopeless. I found myself panhandling for food and gas money for my car. The Access Center helped me get connect with local organizations for homeless lunches, outlets for clothes, showers and governmental agencies for employment. Thank God for a selfless organization like Valley Oasis.

*Sincerely,
Client*





Brenda* came to Valley Oasis Access Center in February 2009. Her chemical dependency contributed to her becoming homeless. This struggle led to her losing her 4 year old daughter, Bailey to the State. Child endangerment charges then lead to the custody loss of her 14 year old daughter. Her hopelessness and loss of her children lead her to seek homeless services with Valley Oasis.

While a client at the Access Center she was provided with a variety of services. With her case manager's guidance, she was able to complete her year-long DUI School and completed a 6-month substance abuse program that included after school care. After overcoming all of the obstacles and barriers that she and her family faced, Brenda was able to obtain custody of both of daughters.

With this agency's efforts this family was able to reunite as a complete family. They have now been able to secure transitional housing for their newly reunited family. In addition, this agency has been able to provide them with other services to ensure their growth. Because of the diligent efforts of her case manager the reunification process was less traumatizing for her and her children.



Linda*, a 59-year-old individual came to the Homeless Solutions Access Center. She became homeless because the family members that she was caring for passed away. Mourning the loss of her family as well as the loss of her basic human needs of shelter, she was forced to sleep in the desert washes for seven months.

With the assistance of the Access Center, Linda was able to obtain emergency housing at Lancaster Community shelter. Because she had very little income she had to stay at the shelter for about two years. She was very happy to have a place to lay her head at night; however, she was not interested in stopping there. Wanting more for herself, she applied for SSI because of various health conditions that hindered her ability to work. With several medical appointments and shelter re-certifications she was busy daily trying to improve her situation. With the guidance of her case manager and the Valley Oasis team, she was approved for SSI and awarded a shelter plus care voucher allowing her to obtain her own apartment.

Now Linda had a place to call her own but she needed furnishings and a refrigerator. Valley Oasis donated a refrigerator to her and allowed her to shop our thrift store for cooking tools and various household necessities at no cost to her. Recently she was awarded a substantial back payment for her SSI allowing her to purchase a mobile home and return the Shelter Plus Care voucher for another individual to utilize.

If this individual had not come to Valley Oasis she may still be living outside in the desert. It took a team effort to be able to provide this person the opportunity to have her basic human needs fulfilled. She is now able to maintain her life without any assistance and is extremely proud of her accomplishments.



Lynn had past drug abuse issues and was a domestic violence victim. Lynn had lost custody of her children due to child endangerment, had spent time in jail because of the drug use, and her abuser was still trying to make contact with her. Lynn came to Valley Oasis and staff went to court with her to give support. Lynn was granted monitored visitations and continued to work thru her drug use problems and check in with her parole officer.

Lynn now has unmonitored visits with her children and is looking forward to reuniting with her kids. She is also enrolled in college, and now working at a sober living home. Lynn recently came back to Valley Oasis to drop off Easter eggs and candy and make a cash donation.



Debbie* and her 3 children were from Nigeria . During her 60 days in the emergency shelter, she received a restraining order, sole custody of her children, and a divorce. Debbie now lives in our Transitional housing program, called Stepping Into The Light, and works as an in-home care person.



Jerri* is a male -to- female transgender who came to Valley Oasis from out of state. She came to Valley Oasis on the advice of her case manager at her local Outreach Center. Her case manager stated that she feared Jerri's abuser was going to kill her and she needed to get as far away from him as possible. Jerri received a name change, new I.D., and estrogen and hormone injections while at Valley Oasis. Jerri now lives with her cousin.





Bob* is a bisexual man who came to Valley Oasis seeking help from his female abuser. Bob completed his 60 days at Valley Oasis and received housing at a Veterans Transitional housing program. Bob is going to Culinary Arts School to become a Chef.



Jeff*, an immigrant, and his three young sons went through our Valley Oasis Emergency Domestic Violence Shelter and were later accepted into our Transitional Housing. Transitional Housing Staff assisted him with all appropriate documents to apply for legal status and assisted with translating all documents from Spanish. Many hours were dedicated to this project with his case manager.

While in Transitional Housing, Jeff enrolled in ESL classes to learn English. Due to the nature of the abuse, Jeff was often in Children's Court defending his parenting skills and the stable environment him and his children were in. Through Jeff's diligence and his perseverance and persistence he was able to obtain full legal and physical custody of his three sons.

Jeff learned how to survive on a little income to support his three sons and himself in a violence free environment. Jeff learned how to take public transportation and depend on himself to flourish in the program.

We were able to apply for Shelter Plus Care Housing and Jeff was granted his certificate. He recently moved into his own rental home with his three children.

Jeff was able to apply and receive his work permit and soon should be issued his permanent residency to apply for a drivers license. Jeff attributes Valley Oasis and all their staff for his success and his children's adjustment to a violence free world.

