March 2025

Greetings from WillBridge of Santa Barbara

Stranded

It was a cold November (2024) evening, the phone rang and the story unfolding put a WillBridge staff on high alert. She immediately contacted the CEO and relayed what she was told. A grandmother (retired veteran we will call Carrie) was stranded in Las Vegas with her nine-year-old granddaughter. Carrie had spoken to a VA representative and was under the impression when she arrived in Las Vegas there would be housing for her and her granddaughter. To Carries dismay that was not the case, with limited funds she and her granddaughter were stranded in a McDonalds parking lot.

WillBridge staff called Carrie back and instructed her to head over to Circus Circus to get a room and WillBridge would cover the cost. Carrie and her granddaughter settled in their hotel room for the night. Unfortunately, during the night the back window of Carrie's car was smashed in. Things were becoming more stressful and Carrie was feeling very unsafe. Carrie was encouraged to come to Santa Barbara. Under normal circumstances WillBridge houses individual adults not families however this emergency was a call for action. WillBridge had a room available that could temporarily accommodate Carrie and her granddaughter.

Upon Carrie's arrival WillBridge staff connected with local agencies to assist with getting her housing. WillBridge worked in tandem with New Beginnings Safe Parking Program. Between both agencies Carrie's back window was fixed, her car registration and insurance were brought up to date. Carrie a licensed CNA and Phlebotomist contacted her employment agency and was assigned to two private duty cases right away. Carrie and her granddaughter remained housed in one of WillBridge homes while New Beginnings Safe Parking Outreach Team assisted her with locating an apartment. During the month of February Carrie and her granddaughter moved into a beautiful two-bedroom apartment.

Your generosity & support can make a difference and impact change in someone's life. Your one time donation or monthly pledge of $25.00 will bring hope and help sponsor someone in need of housing.

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WillBridge of Santa Barbara

The majority of WillBridge residents are individuals that are considered service resistant, estranged from their families, isolated, believe no one cares and experience feelings of hopelessness. WillBridge serves as a housing component for its residents to begin their journey on a path of restoration, embracing life changing experiences and re-establishing their foundation in self-confidence, self-esteem, and self-respect.

WillBridge goal is to empower our residents, assist them in reintegrating back into community living. Our challenge is to help break that cycle of homelessness in spite of a person's resistance, to see them when they are trying to be invisible, to hear those who remain silent, speak for those who have lost their voice, remove the unseen barriers of fear, loneness and isolation, not grow weary and never give up. WillBridge offers hope and is a change agent for individuals ready to break their homeless cycle – provides the ground work for a new beginning – is a safe haven for those asking for help and provides and an opportunity for a life style change.