

Who does HomeAid Help? Meet Carrie.

Carrie had a good job, a teenage daughter, a committed boyfriend of three years and baby boy on the way. During the 2009 economic downturn, Carrie's company, a construction adhesive supplier, closed. Soon after, her boyfriend became an abusive drug user. She told him to leave, even though that meant raising her children alone. Carrie's mother moved in to help alleviate some financial and childcare issues while Carrie returned to school to become a certified medical assistant. Unfortunately, the jobs she found either paid too little or were too far away.

Her teenage daughter received several scholarships and a student loan, allowing her to move on to college. Carrie, however, could no longer afford to stay in her apartment. Over the next two years, she moved in with her sister, sleeping on the floor. She sold everything except her car. "I'd never felt so helpless or hopeless before in my life," said Carrie.

Finally, she found Rainbow Village, a Gwinnett County organization that transforms the lives of homeless families with children by providing a stable community and services that instill initiative, self-development and accountability. Soon Carrie got a job as a part-time manager at UPS and felt like she had won the lottery! She finally had income and benefits again.

Carrie's improved life skills brought back her confidence. Graduating the Rainbow Village program was bittersweet and scary, but Carrie felt immense pride at her accomplishments. Today, she lives in a place of her own with her son, who continues to participate in the after-school program at Rainbow Village's community center.

HomeAid Atlanta builds, renovates, and maintains facilities for nonprofit organizations like Rainbow Village. HomeAid completed a new six-unit apartment building at Rainbow Village in 2015; volunteer Mike Smith of Harcrest Homes led construction. HomeAid will return to Rainbow Village this April for a Care Project: a small renovation project, and a Care Day.

