

Helping Clients' Find Shelter

I have been working together with a Ralston Papillion High Social Work to help a family who lost their apartment because they were not cooperating with the apartment management. Their neighbors reported them to the apartment manager that they are annoying, disturbance, and sometime they pay their bills late. They have Section 8 that paying portion of their rent. They are responsible to pay 2/3 of the rent. The lady is a single mother with 5 children. Her old daughter has 8 months old baby girl.

Her two daughters reported to the high school Social Worker that they are losing their apartment in two weeks. They do not know or have an idea where they can find apartment to rent. The family is Sudanese (Dinka Tribe). I received an email from the Social Worker to help her for interpretation to be able to communicate with the mother. The mother has limited English communication. The Social Worker got my contact email from Charles Drew Interpretation Services Supervisor. I work as an Interpreter for many agencies and organizations.

I called the mother to discuss about their situation. She said that their situation is worse because she doesn't know where to find an apartment to stay with her children. After I talked with her I called Social Worker and explained what the mother said. The Social Worker was a helpful lady; she was able to help the family. She said to me that two weeks is almost over for the family to loss their apartment and they do not know where to find a place to move. She made many phone calls to agencies that help people for temporary housing.

The day prior to the family losing their apartment she called the Out Door Mission. The Out Door Mission agreed to help the family for 6 weeks to find a place to live. Their belonging items were stored in the garage because they cannot take them to the Out Door Mission. This is temporary housing. It was great that the family was able to find a place to say.

The mother is working for Iowa Beef Production (IBP) in the evening. Her pay is ok to cover the bills. We realized that she mismanaged her incomes. So we spent time to educate her how to manage her incomes and make sure her bills are pay accordingly. We set down and listed all her bills. After that we set down we calculated how much she would spend for bills and how much she would safe. In addition, they have government assistance Food Stamp that helps them to pay for food. Three weeks later, the mother called me and said that her financial budgeting and spending is improved. She was so appreciative and thankful for the great help we offered her family finding them a place to live and help her for budget planning. Now the family is still staying at the Out Door Mission. Hopefully, they may find their apartment soon.

Therefore, I am so glad that we can help one another resolve issues. I wasn't sure what to do when I received an email from the Social Worker. She explained to me that she needs my help to be able to communicate with the mother. The skills that I used to help this family are responsiveness, accountability and accessible communication. I was very open to work together with the Social Worker and the family. I took the responsibility and that it is important to help this family find a place to save their lives. I was an advocate to provide to accessible communication between the Social Worker and the mother to resolve their issues. I believe that our community needs people who can take an immediate responsibility and available to bring possible solutions to others.