

NAME:
Tashianna Curry
AGE:
21
OCCUPATION:
Student

RESIDENCE:
Phoenix House
Apartments
Atlanta, GA
69 Apartments

AFFORDABILITY:
- PBRA
- Low-Income Housing Tax
Credit
(Income Restricted)

*Last updated in 2018

VOICES OUT LOUD

Tashianna



I was homeless. I have family here, but they are not in my life because of my sexuality.

At 21 years old, Tashianna is the youngest and one of the newest residents at Phoenix House. She says she feels lucky to have found a new home after being kicked out of her family's house at the age of 19 for being gay.

"I had to figure out life on my own," she says.

Tashianna spent two years on the streets of Atlanta, struggling to find permanent housing. Some nights she stayed with friends, other nights she managed to get enough money from her job as a hair stylist to pay for a hotel room, but most nights, she slept outside in a tent.

In 2018, alone, nearly 1.6 million LGBTQ youth like Tashianna will experience homelessness in large part due their identity. Their vulnerability is often compounded by increase risk of mental illness and targeted sexual violence. Shelter and supportive services like the ones offered at Phoenix House represents some of the far too rare opportunities for LGBTQ youth to find safety and security after being forced onto the streets, with no place to call home.

"Finally, I got housing," was all she could think when Tashianna saw her soon to be home at Phoenix House. "I was so relieved."

Freed from the stress of finding a safe place to live, Tashianna now focuses on the future. She is planning to get her General Equivalency Diploma and Child Development Associate Certificate so she can pursue her passion - working with children experiencing homelessness.

I see a lot of children panhandling on the street. I just want to help them.

Supportive housing services provided Tashianna the lifesaving tools she needed to find stability in her life. Now, Tashianna wants to pay it forward and become a social worker like the ones that helped her find Phoenix House. Affordable housing is more than just a roof to Tashianna. It also represents the opportunity to lead the life she dreams of.