

NAME:
Saifullah Khan

OCCUPATION:
Mechanic and Student

RESIDENCE:
Hazel Hill Apartments
Fredericksburg, VA
147 Units

AFFORDABILITY:
- 100% Project Based
Section 8
- Low-Income Housing
Tax Credit (Income
Restricted)

*Last updated in 2018

VOICES OUT LOUD

Saifullah

RHAN



The best thing about Hazel Hill for me, is that it has enabled me to go to school...when I was living in another place, every month I would struggle.

Born in Afghanistan, Saifullah Khan worked for the U.S. Army as a linguist starting in 2002 when he was still in high school. He worked in the small town of Khost in eastern Afghanistan, close to his mom and other siblings. But by 2012, that all changed.

"It was becoming very dangerous for me," Saifullah says. "I don't want to go into the details, but my family and I, we have gone through a lot... we lost family members..."

Saifullah resigned from his role as a linguist and arrived in the U.S. four days later as a refugee. He says he was excited for the opportunities here, but his American friends had a different perspective and told him: "There is no work," "You will be struggling." "You will be making just maybe \$1,500 but this amount of money going to rent and utility bills."

"I didn't like him telling me that that," Saifullah confessed. "But believe it or not, he was telling me the truth."

For the first few months, Saifullah didn't leave his house. He didn't have a driver's license and he didn't know anyone. He shared that he even contemplated going back to Afghanistan, despite running for his safety. Finally, in early 2013, Saifullah's wife and daughter joined him in the states. He found a job at a mechanic shop and then, based on recommendations from other families, applied to live at Hazel Hill Apartments, where he sat on the waiting list for 2 years.

Now, currently living in Hazel Hill, Saifullah has begun his third year of school at the University of Mary Washington after receiving his Associate's Degree from Germanna Community College. He's studying to become a general doctor.

Saifullah also says that living at Hazel Hill has helped his daughter in school and his wife as well. He says the tutoring program helps his daughter with her school work and gives her access to computers, while the English classes help his wife. Additionally, because there is a small community of other Afghani families, he says his wife also has close friends that she can still talk to in her native language.

As the sole provider of his family, Saifullah shares that he wakes up each morning with a day full of responsibilities and there's not a single day that he has nothing to do. But he hopes that his hard work and determination inspires his children to further their education.

My hope for my children is to raise them well and make sure that they get the best education they can possibly get.