

NAME:
Bill & Grether Ginorio

OCCUPATION:
Associates for the
Department of Children
and Family

RESIDENCE:
Tequesta Knolls
Apartments
Miami Beach, FL
100 Apartments

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

*Last updated in 2018

VOICES OUT LOUD

Bill & Grether

I never thought I would see myself in this predicament... I've always, we've always, helped people that had nothing, and we felt good about helping them. And here we are, and we had nothing. Nothing.

Grether and Bill Ginorio moved to Homestead from New York in the early 1990s. Together, the couple raised their children and worked at a local ministry there.



"We did a lot of outreach and everything in the community,"

Grether recalls. "Helping people, giving food and shelter and what not. And during the hurricanes, we would allow them to come in and stay in the church because a lot of trailer parks over there had to evacuate."

In 2013, their life took a devastating turn when a scheduled surgery for Grether went wrong. "I was contaminated with something that they did in an operation that got me sick... I was supposedly going to die. I got very sick, close to my death..."

For extra support, the couple decided to sell their home, give up their church, and move in with their daughter in Mississippi.

"I wasn't taking any medication because when I went there, I just wanted to die right away," Grether confesses. "So he [Bill] could come back and take the church."

In a miraculous turn of events, despite not taking her medicine, Grether stopped getting sick. When she went back to the doctor, they told her she was healed.

"We came back [to Homestead] but the man that had the church didn't want to give it back. So then we had no place to go because we had sold our place," Grether shares. "I wasn't supposed to live any longer and we became homeless."

Bill, a veteran, was getting a small pension check from the VA but it wasn't enough for an apartment. While living on the streets, Bill learned the VA had a program helping the homeless. After applying, the couple was accepted to move into Tequesta Knolls Apartments.

Since then, both Bill and Grether secured a job with the Department of Children and Family, where they see the struggles that low-income families face first-hand.

[Bill:] One of the highest things in Miami is rent. There's overcrowding here. There's hardly any rentals around and those are all very expensive. If they want to do away with the low-income housing... [Grether:] there's going to be more homelessness.