

NAME:

Keena Minifield

*Affordable Housing
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**V O I C E S
O U T L O U D**

Keena **MINIFIELD**

When a person goes to a shelter, they are there one; because they don't have a house and two; because they need help, they need the resources to get them into a house of their own



Keena Minifield was born and raised in Northern Virginia's Loudoun County, which is one of the wealthiest counties in the Country.

When she first moved out on her own, Keena shares she was shocked by how expensive everything was, struggling to find a job where she could make enough to simply cover the cost of rent, let alone utilities, food and other essentials. She decided to move to Colorado with her then-boyfriend/now-fiancé and their two children.

When her fiancé relapsed back into addiction, they briefly separated, he stopped paying rent, and moved out. This left Keena unexpectedly paying the entirety of rent on top of her student loans and other expenses. By the summer of 2016, Keena and her children were homeless.

It took her a couple of weeks for Keena to get her and her children into the 30-day homeless shelter due to the waitlist of other families in similar circumstances. From day one to day 30, Keena and her children stayed in the shelter with nowhere else to go. After her last day at the shelter, she and her children moved to transitional housing by the Bell Socialization Service for one year.

In 2017, after her one year in transitional housing was over, Keena moved to York City, PA where she now lives in an affordable housing community with her two children. Keena shares that the most important thing now is her peace of mind – knowing that she can afford her rent and not having to worry about her and her children becoming homeless again.

She's now working part time while studying full time at the Harrisburg Area Community College York campus, majoring in social sciences. Keena says that being independent means she can juggle her professional pursuits while also being there for her children. She shares that it's these baby steps that are pushing her to become a homeowner and not just hold down a job but start a career she can build off.

I can't even explain how blessed and like lucky I am to be able to get into affordable housing