

NAME:
Naomi Hamilton

OCCUPATION:
Student

RESIDENCE:
Silver Square Apartments
Milwaukee, WI
48 Homes

AFFORDABILITY:
100% Project-Based
Section 8

*Last updated in 2019



Children are afraid when they are in shelters or on the streets; it impacts them. They are crying, [wondering] where are they going to live the next day, and hungry too.

Naomi Hamilton was born in Gary, Indiana. After the birth of her daughter, Naomi went through a period of homelessness from 2010 until 2015.

It was very difficult, as she moved from state to state, living with family and friends when she could. She couldn't find a stable home, and when she applied for housing support or a job, she rarely received any mail from her old addresses which made it difficult to keep up with what had happened. She was losing out on opportunities and didn't know where to turn. Naomi and her daughter had to move to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where there was a homeless shelter. There, they were on a waitlist for community housing, but living by the strict shelter rules.

When Naomi received the news that she had been accepted to move to Silver Square Apartments in Milwaukee, she knew this would mean that she and her daughter would have a stable place to call home. Today, she has been there for four years. In addition to helping Naomi end her struggle with homelessness, moving to Silver Square Apartments meant to her young daughter, who was often placed in special needs classes in school, could get more specialized help and attention. When she started school in Milwaukee, the teachers helped to bring her back up to the level of her peers.

Naomi shares that having an affordable home has lifted a big weight off her shoulders. Now that she is stable, she's looking to finish her GED and get a college degree. She can work through it at her own pace, supporting her daughter along the way. Looking back on her time as a homeless single mother, Naomi shares she realizes how alone she was. Now, she says she's grateful to have a community to call on to help as the staff at Silver Spring will help out with not only maintenance issues, but any personal things as well.

Living here [not only] helped me overcome homelessness...my self-esteem also got built up... I can accomplish what I missed out on through these years.