

**NAME:**  
Tiffany Hunter

**RESIDENCE:**  
Chapel Ridge West  
Apartments  
West Des Moines, IA  
69 Homes

**AFFORDABILITY:**  
- 60% AMI Income-  
Restricted, Low-Income  
Housing Tax Credits

\*Last updated in 2019

# VOICES OUT LOUD

Tiffany



**For you personally, you can focus on other things in your life other than: 'Where are we going to sleep tonight,'; 'How are we going to get the money?'**

Tiffany Hunter is originally from Minnesota. At a young age, her parents moved the family to Arizona and then to Iowa to follow job offers. After moving to Des Moines, she

felt a sense of family and community that pushed her to stay in the area and raise a family. Tiffany now has her four children, one deaf and another on the Autism spectrum, and she also cares for her 2-year-old niece.

At the end of June 2018, Des Moines suffered catastrophic flooding in parts of the city. Officials were caught by surprise by the intensity and duration of the rainfall, with nearly 9 inches of rain falling in less than four hours. Tiffany remembers that someone from her old apartment complex knocked on the door at 10pm, informing them that they might have to evacuate. At midnight, they were officially instructed to evacuate. Tiffany her children each grabbed a backpack and headed for the evacuation center. Over 100 people were evacuated from their homes that evening. Tiffany and her children were placed in a hotel for two weeks while she searched for a new home.

Tiffany shared that starting from scratch was the hardest part of the process. Also hard was explaining to her young children that they no longer have their favorite toys and couldn't go back to their home. Thankfully, the manager in their old apartment was able to find the family a place at Chapel Ridge West Apartments in West Des Moines.

Today, the family is slowly settling into their three-bedroom apartment. The new property staff have been helpful in finding resources for Tiffany and helping her with the changes in school districts. With a deaf child, and another who is autistic, Tiffany needed to push to ensure they were well looked after.

Tiffany shares that knowing that she has affordable housing and that she can provide a safe place her kids can call home and come back to every night takes a big chunk of stress off her life. While a large portion of her income goes towards rent and electricity, she can engage her kids and local activities to help them flourish in their new community.

**I just feel blessed to be able to have the resources to be able to provide for my kids and to be able to keep them with me.**