



ending homelessness  
rethinking mental health

## HOUSING IS HEALTHCARE!

*The name in the following story has been changed to protect personal identity*

'Susan' moved into her new apartment in Burlington this April after experiencing over a decade of living on the streets and in back alleys. After being resistant to help for years, the Pathways Vermont team worked tirelessly to help earn Susan's trust and find her a safe place to call home. Working with local landlords, the Pathways Housing team was able to identify housing and help Susan move in and has been meeting with her, at a safe distance, regularly. It is clear that having safe housing and compassionate services is what will keep all Vermonters safe during the Covid-19 crisis. Below is an excerpt from an email that Susan's daughter sent the Pathways Team shortly after she moved in.

"Susan is making huge leaps and bounds by the day. (She) very much appreciated the box of food Pathways brought her, especially the ice cream!!! Susan is doing remarkable! She's coming out of her flight and fight shell. Susan is eating extremely well, hydrating, engaging appropriately with kindness, and happiness. Susan loves her apartment. She has taken complete ownership of her apartment and everything in it. She waters her plants daily, learned how to use the microwave, she's cooking on the stove top... simple things. I must say I wasn't expecting her to adapt so quickly and successfully...Three months ago she wouldn't even let me in her hotel room. Now she actually answering her door appropriately. None of this would even be possible without Pathways.... (She) is doing the best I've seen in over 25 years. The move in kit was a life saver especially during the pandemic. I appreciate absolutely everything."

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