

UMOM New Day Centers Helps a Veteran Family Get Back on Their Feet



When you talk to Felipe Medrano, you immediately notice this Army veteran's positive outlook on life, pleasant demeanor, and willingness to help others. It is difficult to imagine that hard times fall on a person like him. However, less than a year ago, Felipe lost his job at a manufacturing plant and his family lost everything. Felipe, his wife, Aimee, and their four children stayed with a family member for a short time, but faced eviction for having too many people in the apartment. With no place to go, the family found themselves at the Emergency Family Shelter at UMOM New Day Centers.

Just after the family moved in, UMOM was awarded and received funds to implement the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) grant. UMOM staff was able to assess the Medrano Family for housing stability and it was determined that the family had relatively low-barriers and would be an excellent candidate for Rapid Rehousing through the SSVF program. As a result, the family immediately began working with a SSVF case manager to locate affordable housing.

The family quickly found housing and with the assistance of their case manager, and worked on budgeting and goal-setting to achieve housing stability. Felipe continued attending night classes at University of Phoenix where he studies accounting. Both Felipe and Aimee were connected to employment resources and after diligent job search, Aimee found employment at a local arts and crafts store. Felipe continues to search for part-time work and also does house painting on a part-time basis.

After three months of rental assistance (which was staged down as the family grew more independent), the Medrano Family is now paying their own rent and continue to thrive. The SSVF program allowed them the opportunity to get back on their feet quickly and provided the extra support and resources for their family's success.

UMOM New Day Centers operates the SSVF program in partnership with Save the Family Foundation in Maricopa County. SSVF has been of great benefit to the agencies as it has allowed us to truly assess the needs of our Veteran Families and target resources that are appropriate to the housing and supportive needs of the families. Our housing services include Rapid Rehousing and eviction prevention through SSVF, an Emergency and transitional housing option including a Grant and Per Diem transitional program for Veterans and their family members, as well as permanent supportive housing.