



ADVANCING THE COMMON GOOD BY FOCUSING ON THE BUILDING BLOCKS FOR A BETTER LIFE

For a building to be stable for the long term, it needs a solid foundation. The same is true in life, and the building blocks for a solid life are a strong education, financial stability and good health.

Jane is a victim of domestic violence. After residing in a “safe house” for almost a year, she was referred to the Laconia Area Community Land Trust *Transitional Shelter* apartments. She arrived in Laconia in April 2009 with 4 children, no car, no job, no family and no friends in the area. One of her first tasks was to enroll in the Laconia Academy (adult evening high school). She walked to school 4 nights a week for a year to complete the course requirements. Jane graduated with honors in June 2010 as her 4 young daughters watched with excitement.



Living in the “safe house” without financial resources was difficult for Jane; many times she considered returning to her abusive husband so that she could leave the crowded shelter. Her association with the Land Trust Program – the ability to occupy a 3-bedroom apartment, to attain her high school diploma, and to rebuild her self confidence, has given Jane the strength to raise her daughters by herself and has marked a new beginning for the family with the future ahead and the past finally left behind.

When I was living in the shelter, if someone told me that a little over a year from then that I would be graduating from the Academy with honors and have a safe, affordable place to call home, I would have laughed. I don't remember a happier time in my life. The support and services I have received through the Land Trust Program has given me a completely new perspective on the future. This is the first time I have felt confident, hopeful and proud.

Jane



“Reach out a hand to one, and influence the condition of all.”
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