



**Homeless
Coalition**
PALM BEACH COUNTY

Adopt-A-Family of the Palm Beaches, Inc.

with the support of the Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County

Success Story: Tanashia Barney

When Tanashia found herself homeless with her six children in the summer of 2020, she knew she needed a helping hand. Determined not to put her children through the same cycle of instability and upheaval she experienced as a child, Tanashia called Palm Beach County's Homeless Resource Center seeking assistance and a chance at a new start.

Tanashia and her two sisters grew up as nomads, never having a stable place to call home. While her parents battled addiction, Tanashia had to navigate childhood and adolescence on her own. Without any structure or support, she eventually landed in a facility for juveniles. Tanashia says that she started adulthood with a lot of bumps and bruises. She had her first child at age 20 and struggled with mental health issues and addiction on and off as she raised her kids. In July, Tanashia and her six children became homeless and had nowhere to turn.

Tanashia was not willing to accept defeat, and she was determined to provide her children with the stability she never had. She called the Homeless Resource Center seeking assistance. After assessing Tanashia, the family was placed in emergency shelter at the Salvation Army. Tanashia had 90 days to locate stable housing for her family, but her tenacity and determination helped her secure a home in just 35 days. Her Family Advocate from the Homeless Resource Center assisted her throughout the process, and Tanashia displayed her resilience by doing all of the legwork in just one month.

Tanashia and her family were linked to the Rapid Re-Housing program funded by the Homeless Coalition. The family is receiving declining rental subsidy, giving Tanashia ample time to establish the ability to maintain the full rent on her own. Tanashia has made all of her rent payments on time thus far, and she is taking steps to increase her earning potential. She picked up "Goal Getter" journal on the clearance rack at Walmart, and she has used the book to map out her goals. Tanashia set a goal to complete her GED in 90 days, and she rented a computer to complete the necessary work. She is planning to start classes at Palm Beach State College in the spring of 2021 to become a dental assistant. She says she is managing her mental health issues through therapy and medication which has helped her to navigate life's challenges without getting overwhelmed. Her children are all attending school and daycare regularly and feel at peace in their home.

Not only did the assistance from the Homeless Coalition stabilize Tanashia and her children, but it inspired Tanashia to pay it forward and help others. She recently met a woman in the checkout line while shopping and learned she was struggling with homelessness and had no local support system. Tanashia passed along the number for the Homeless Resource Center along with her personal cell number. By providing a stable home for Tanashia and her children, the Rapid Re-Housing program gave Tanashia a safe environment to recognize her potential, focus on her goals, and help those around her.