



Helping families in crisis rebuild their lives.

Annie's family would have been homeless...

You helped change her story.

Annie is a 31 year-old mother of three young children, ages 5, 4, and 3. She lives in Cannon Falls and, up until four months ago, has always been stable and able to pay her bills on time. Annie had a good paying job and had managed to accumulate a small amount of savings – enough to get her through about two months of bills. She had never used any social service agencies before, and made annual donations to her church and other area non-profits.

That all changed in August of 2011. Annie was laid off from her job – a job she had for over 7 years. She immediately began looking for work and found a part-time job for less than half of the hourly wage she used to make. She would have made about the same amount collecting unemployment, but didn't want the break in her work history.

Annie soon ran out of savings and had to choose between paying her rent and buying food for her children. After getting a month behind, she was served an eviction notice from her landlord. She had nowhere to turn and would have been homeless if she were evicted.

In December Annie's church referred her to HOPE Coalition's Housing Support Services program. JoAnn from HOEP talked with Annie get to the root of the problem – Annie's current apartment was not affordable with her current income. Because her employment future was uncertain, Annie needed to find subsidized housing where the rent would be based on her income. But, if an eviction went on Annie's record, she would no longer qualify for subsidized housing.

JoAnn helped Annie apply for assistance from the county, secure a subsidized two-bedroom apartment, and utilized Community Care Funds to pay Annie's last month's rent to avoid eviction and keep up her good rental history.

Annie now has affordable housing, food support (county), medical assistance (county), and a safe and healthy environment for her children. She hopes that sometime in the near future she will be able to secure a living-wage job again, but until then she is stable and happy.

Thanks to people like you who support our mission, HOPE Coalition provided the safety net that Annie needed to avoid a major crisis. Even with an uncertain economic future, no matter what happens Annie's housing will always be affordable because it will always be based on her income. Her children will always have a home, thanks to you and others like you who support our programming.

