

Manuela

"CHN allowed me to stay in the only home I've ever known... and now I own it!"



Challenges:

Unemployed
Unaffordable housing costs

CHN Services:

Lease Purchase program
Homeowner classes

Outcomes:

Affordable housing
Homeowner
Employed

I was anonymously referred to CHN in 1989 upon the passing of my mother. As much as I wanted to, I couldn't afford to keep this house. I wasn't working and I was very ill. I didn't want to leave behind the home I grew up in or my neighbors, we're like family. But it seemed like my only option was moving to an apartment.

CHN bought my house in 1990 and allowed me to continue living in it as I paid them back. I wasn't sure where to start. I knew nothing about being a homeowner.

CHN made it easy. They taught me all I needed to know about various homeowner responsibilities that would've been difficult to experience on my own. My niece came with me to a lot of the home repair courses and we both learned a lot. By the time she was in college, she was building houses with Habitat for Humanity and I did most of my own repairs.

My situation was overwhelming, but CHN helped me through it. I often wonder who gave them my name. I wish I knew so I could give them a high five!

—Manuela Domanovic