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On Behalf Of:

  My story is that when my children were both diagnosed with severe neurodevelopmental disorder, I was still in school, and my husband/partner was just establishing his career in law. In order for us to thoroughly, holistically, and immediately give our full attention to our children's development and intervention, I chose to pause my education and focus full-time on my children. My partner chose to pause his 70 hr. week Law career, and slowly transitioned careers to something less demanding, to be available for the children's needs. At this time in our lives, we would have otherwise been establishing ourselves in careers and saving to buy a home. Because most of our extra income went towards biomedical treatments for our children's underlying co-morbid disorders, we became long-term renters. We also received assistance from Homes for Good, which helped us afford to live with only one parent working.

     While renting was a functional option for us, it did put us at the mercy of landlords and property management companies, as well as the requirements and limitations that fall under Homes for Goods Guidelines.(Homes for good was incredibly helpful for a situation overall.) Although, due to these outlying factors beyond our control, our situation could not enable us to establish a long-term stable home environment for our children. We found ourselves establishing routines and therapies and then needing to stop and get ready to move.

     As renters, we had nearly full-time ABA therapists, early interventionists, and in-home DSP workers in order to give our children a functional and enriching environment developmentally. This was very difficult at times as renters. The unfortunate thing is that we had to re-establish ourselves many times over. We were forced to move four to five times during the kids formative years. Because all children, and especially children with Autism struggle with instability, ASD kids struggle with minor, daily transitions of all kinds. This is not to mention also the health hazards, mainly mold, that my environment to least sensitive children were exposed to in low-income rentals. For these reasons, this actually caused regression in both children many times over. It was difficult to have to reestablish routines and spaces and addresses, as well as finances. Our experience is that most landlords, no matter how much you care for, or put work into the house, will take your deposit. We had to fight a few times to try to get our deposit back or at least not pay extra money to essentially pay for a landlords remodel. (This takes money out of our pockets which we would otherwise use to pay for our children's therapies and medicine). At a certain point, for many reasons, it became essential for the children's development to separate them for a time (or buy a extra large home, obviously not an option.) This is when I found C Street co-op.

     Now that I am at C Street, I have a stable and clean environment for my son. I

no longer have to worry about when I'm going to have to pack up my son's things and introduce him to a new environment. I don't have to work many hours out of the home in order to afford to live here. This enables me to get my life and my son's life back on track. It's been really amazing for us. My older son is able to thrive living alone with his Dad, and get his individual needs met. The boys are able to spend time together in a functional way, where they do not trigger each other's with stress and stereotypical behaviors on a day-to-day basis. I'm able to implement consistent therapies and interventions in my home myself. I can focus on my continual research into treating my son's co-morbidities, as well as finding effective strategies for addressing his delays and education. I'm also able to get myself back into school online and finish my degree in Special Education (after postponing for 10 yrs). With a degree, I will be able to support myself and my son's long term.