

Maranatha-Carlisle

The Johnsons came to use through a referral from Veterans Affairs. Mr. Johnson is developmentally disabled and the son of a World War II vet. Mrs. Johnson is limited as well, and both have some physical impairments, making getting around quite difficult. They are not connected to services and therefore, there is no case worker to assist them.

They started with Maranatha last November: 2 months behind on their rent, over \$2,500 due on their electric, facing a shut-off on their electric and their water. We immediately went into action and called on New Hope Ministries to help pay the water bill. We spent hours trying to contact the right department to get them set up with On-Track and keep their electric service operational. We contacted the landlord and explained that the Johnsons were working with Maranatha now and humbly requested we be allowed to make payments on the back rent – he agreed. Our quick actions turned what could have been a homeless Christmas into one where they had a home – one with heat and water and even a few presents.

Before Thanksgiving, two of our staff personally secured a hospital-type bed from New Digs Ministry. They even delivered it to them! The Johnsons were renting a washer and dryer from Aaron's, which they obviously couldn't afford, so we went into action again and were able to secure a refurbished set for a reasonable price – delivery included!

Our Social Services continued and by the end of March, all was once again stable. Fortunately, senior housing opened up in Carlisle and we were able to help them secure more affordable housing. Because of working with us, they were allowed to make payments on the security deposit and could move in right away.

The benefits of having Maranatha manage their money continued with payment plans being made on medical bills and the ability to charge pharmacy expenses, keeping them healthy.

They now have money every week for food and personal needs. They each have a basic cell phone but no longer worry about not having the funds to renew their minutes. Their rent is paid on time and there is no longer a threat of utilities being shut off.

In less than a year, Maranatha was able to turn life around for the Johnsons, and we feel blessed that the service we provide changes lives!