

Too Full of Pride



OCCHC welcomed Jose & his wife, Breana, at the annual Resident Advisory Committee meeting a day after signing a lease for the family's new apartment.

The family of four was faced with homelessness living in a car in a shopping center parking lot after losing their home in March 2012. Jose shares, *"There were other families that would come to the parking lot after the store had closed. We were all homeless, living in this parking lot in our cars."*

Jose never thought finding a job would be hard after a decade of being a packaging designer. He believed that his family could survive on their savings for the time until he landed another job. He describes himself as *"too full of pride"* at that time. But as their savings were dwindling, the new job did not come. Jose said he was too ashamed to ask for help. But once his family was living in the car, he knew he had to reach out for help and applied for CalWORKS, enabling the family to afford a motel room and food.

Getting back to work was Jose's highest priority, but work would not be enough to allow the family to afford market rate housing. Because of the eviction and inability to pay their creditors, Jose and Breana's credit was in shambles. Although, they pulled together \$1,800 a month for a motel room, no one had been willing to rent to them. The forecast on finding a home for their family was dismal at best.

This family would not be moving from the motel until they are able to repair their credit. And, if nearly their entire income was used to pay rent at the motel, there was no hopes of quailing any debts. This is a vicious cycle that kept the family in survival mode.

OCCHC welcomed Jose and his family where they pay 30% of their income for rent. OCCHC collaborated with S.P.I.N., who is assisting the family with their move in costs and rent, and now this family's bout with homelessness is over.

