

Couleecap's Homeless Program Provides Stability and Hope in our Rural Areas

Becoming homeless isn't a situation a person can usually plan or be prepared for. It can be frightening, upsetting, and leave those experiencing it feeling lost or hopeless. At Couleecap, our case managers understand those feelings and that each person's needs are unique.

Elizabeth Van de Vanter of the Sparta area unexpectedly became homeless in early April of 2022. Having previously utilized Couleecap's Sparta Food Pantry, Elizabeth knew that it was a safe place she could turn to for resources and help. It was there she met Andrew Storey, a Couleecap caseworker who works with rural homelessness and prevention services.

"Andrew was a huge help," Elizabeth shared. As she explained, Andrew was able to connect her quickly with an emergency housing option in a local hotel and after a few months, an apartment became available. Through every step of the way, Couleecap and Andrew were there to help Elizabeth navigate the process of accessing safe and affordable housing.

"It is nice to have someone like Andrew and Couleecap to work with," Elizabeth explained. "He is a family man, and he understands the situation. He makes people feel understood and even though he is busy he always has time to help. Not everyone is born with a silver spoon in their mouth, and I wish there were more people like Andrew and sharing these programs because there are a lot of people out there who need help."

Stories like Elizabeth's are not uncommon, especially in rural areas where affordable housing can be scarce. This problem can be compounded by numerous other issues that may be out of an individual's control. That is the value of Couleecap programming. Couleecap programs assist individuals in navigating homelessness to finding permanent housing, reduce stress, and help people feel less alone.

Through her work with Couleecap, Elizabeth has been able to find stability in her life, first with housing and now with a job as well. She notes she is still finding herself struggling at times but she knows she can continue to reach out to Couleecap for the help she needs.

Couleecap programs, such as our Homeless Prevention program, serve thousands of people in the Coulee Region each year. These programs are possible because of the generous financial support we receive.



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-Elizabeth

Couleecap
your local community *action* program



A United Way member agency

A equal opportunity employer and service provider.
Auxiliary aids and services available upon request.

Our Mission

Couleecap fights poverty and promotes self-sufficiency, economic development, and social justice. We are **People Helping People**, and every day our actions make a difference in the lives of people and families throughout the Coulee Region.