With a high school diploma and a job as a certified nursing assistant, Shantari was firmly in control of her life. Unfortunately we are all one paycheck away from being homeless.

“I had regular hours and great clients, but when they went into hospital my hours got significantly reduced. I just couldn’t afford to pay my rent anymore and I ended up sleeping in my car, on park benches, on couches - anywhere I could go really”

When Shantari became pregnant, she was moved into a shelter in Medford, where she had her adorable baby. Life was tough raising a baby in a communal living space. After being referred to us and, after mounds of paperwork, Shantari and Y’Jahri moved into their own house in February 2023. When visiting her, she was so grateful to have a place to call home and have a room for her daughter to sleep in.

“I have lived a very transient lifestyle for years. It’s been very traumatic. It’s not good sleeping outside in the rain. That is just not the norm and it has made me who I am today, I am humbled.”