

Family Saved From Poverty

I grew up and married in Niagara On The Lake. We moved to St. Catharines 35 years ago in 1973. We had to move out of a two-bedroom apartment over the drugstore. We had five children and my last pregnancy was twins, so we got our notice to move because of fire regulations. We looked everywhere in that area, no one would rent to us, they said we had too many kids, their ages then were eight, six, two and the twins were one. Someone told us about Housing. They said you had to live in St. Catharines a year to apply, but we were in a desperate situation with a month to move. Someone from Housing came for a visit to view our situation, we qualified and they called us with a unit at Manchester. My marriage ended in 1977, but we were there for 18 years.

In 1991, I needed a full bathroom on the ground floor for my disabled daughter so I put in for a transfer for a house with everything on the ground floor. They called me with a house (semi) that was available, which is now my current address. We've been here 17 years now. I would never have managed high rent elsewhere raising five kids alone. One disabled daughter lives with me. More homes for affordable housing should be built for the long waiting lists.

Connie
Tenant Since 1973