

Success Stories:

Spelling Bee candidate: A mother and daughter from Quartzite arrived at the Salvation Army office on Friday afternoon. The daughter was a finalist in the State Spelling Bee competition over the weekend and could not afford a hotel room in Phoenix (monthly income was approx. \$250). They stayed at I-HELP on Friday night and a congregation member offered to host them on Saturday night – they refused the offer stating that they felt safe and comfortable at I-HELP. The young women received 9th place in the competition and they had a celebratory dinner at I-HELP on Saturday night. The family returned home on Sunday.

Married couple from Hawaii: They were at the bus station to continue their travels when all their luggage was stolen. They were on the street for 6 days before they found us. Both suffered with some mental health issues. They got a warm shower and bed Sunday night, met with George at Salvation Army on Monday. He helped them contact family and they were back on their way.

A homeless male that has stayed with us met with Salvation Army, contacted his mom whom he hadn't communicated with for quite a while and she helped him with some funding for housing here in Tempe and he is on his way back to stability.

MANY of our guests (males) also have reported to us that they have gotten jobs! This is in addition to some of our guests who already are employed. Several of the single guys who have been involved are working hard to stay sober and some are even attending daily 12-step meetings. The hospitality they have encountered at the host churches has overwhelmed them and they want to do their best to stay clean and sober.

Pregnant female: We had a young, pregnant woman from a domestic violence situation join us Sunday night. She had complications from the pregnancy, paramedics were called and she was transported to the hospital for assistance. What if there had been no shelter Sunday? The case managers helped her obtain resources and she was able to enter a domestic violence shelter the next day (on Monday).

Mature Couple: Mike and Julie stayed at I-HELP this weekend; they were robbed in St. Louis. Mike actually lived here years ago and came with his wife Julie to settle here. Both Mike and Julie are on disability. We spent the weekend talking with them about their housing options and next steps here in AZ to get off the street. They were able to call their teenage children (staying with family) back in Vermont. They will soon be getting their next disability checks and will be able to get off the streets. They were grateful for the meals, warm beds and social service assistance they received from I-HELP.

Disabled Man: Gary suffered a stroke that permanently compromised the right side of his body including his arm and hand. He had been a right-handed welder. Gary waited for the processing of his Social Security Disability claim. He waited more than 2 years and lost everything and became homeless. Gary started attending I-HELP and helped out in the TCAA food pantry during the week. The day before his final Social Security Hearing, I-HELP was able to get him into a hotel room so that he could wash up and get a good night's sleep before the hearing. The case was found in his favor and he will be getting monthly benefits and back pay. This will get Gary off the streets.

Homeless Family finds shelter. A mom, dad and 3 week old baby were “connected” with shelter at the April 2007 Project Homeless Connect – an effort initiated by I-HELP organizations and volunteers!

**For more information, contact Sam Sumner at sams@tempeaction.org or Sue Ringler at i-help@cox.net Visit our website at <http://az-ihelp.org>
TCAA/I-HELP Staff and volunteers also help coordinate Tempe Project Homeless Connect. For more information on this you may check the I-HELP website or contact Sue.**