I’m very excited right now for the fact that I’m moving into an apartment. This has been a long time coming. I’m so excited, and it’s through help with Our Saviour’s."

Susan managed her addiction for years before she was no longer able to sustain her job. Eventually, she moved to Minnesota for treatment because of the excellent programs in the state. At the end of treatment, Susan wanted to stay in Minneapolis. She’d made some friends and really liked the city, especially the positive and welcoming LGBT community. But when she couldn’t afford the rent for the sober house, she ended up homeless.

For six months, Susan slept in a shelter at night. Then she found Our Saviour’s Transitional Housing Program. It gave Susan the time and space she needed to work on finding permanent housing. “It’s been a wonderful experience, and it has allowed me to be in a safe and stable environment to be able to grow and just get back on my feet,” she shared.

Two years later, Susan realized her dream of moving into her own place through Our Saviour’s Permanent Supportive Housing Program. She says, “Oh, it’s awesome! I’m so happy to have my own space, to live alone. It’s absolutely wonderful.” As for her favorite thing in her new place, she pauses before answering, “Having a bathtub!” Sometimes, it’s the little things that truly make a place home.

When Suleban received word that he could come to the United States, he was relieved and happy to finally be able to focus on his future. However, after arriving in Minnesota, Suleban quickly learned that claiming his independence would be harder than he realized. Surrounded by a culture and language he did not know, he constantly relied on others for help. Suleban explains, “When someone comes to a new country they know little to nothing of it. It’s hard for them to start fresh.”

Today, after two years at the English Learning Center, a lot has changed for Suleban. He can now navigate basic tasks like grocery shopping and going to medical appointments. Suleban is determined to keep learning, drawing inspiration from the Somali proverb, “Without knowledge, there is no light.” The English language is that light for Suleban.

Although it’s easy for Suleban to think back on the hard times, knowing that he won’t have to face those struggles again leaves him looking forward. Instead, he’s focused on the opportunities this country has for him. In the future, he sees himself working in any educational professions, as long as it involves helping others.
Dear Friends,

Each passing year presents the opportunity to pause and reflect. Once again, I'm fortunate to look back and share with you all that we have achieved together. Once again, I'm overwhelmed with gratitude for you and the many ways you extend your friendship to Our Saviour's Community Services, from donations and volunteer hours to words of encouragement and support.

In the past year, you've made a difference. You made a difference for Suleban, who is learning English so that he can become a teacher and help others, just like the English Learning Center has helped him. You made a difference for Susan, who was finally able to move into her own apartment (with her very own bathtub!) through Our Saviour's Permanent Supportive Housing.

I invite you to take a moment now to celebrate our success together. Every smiling face, every number, tells a story about skills increased and lives improved…because of you! Thank you. We truly cannot do this work without you.

In gratitude,

Sandra J. Aslaksen
Executive Director

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You Like to Volunteer because I think the U.S. can be a hard place to learn about, and I want people to feel that it’s a positive experience to be here. I feel welcomed at school because the students are so kind and eager to learn—even when I make mistakes!”

– Mary, ELC Volunteer

We are happy we can contribute to OSCS because we know we are giving support and the gift of hope to many who have left unfortunate situations in their search for a better future.”

– Pat and Dave, OSCS Donors