

## Vanessa

Vanessa projects a quiet spirit that belies her determination to better her life and the lives of her children. Vanessa first came to Lancaster with nothing, was in danger of losing her children, and had to enroll in a treatment program to address her alcoholism and depression and save her family.

With the help of a church sponsor, Vanessa found an apartment and employment. Sober since February 2003, she faithfully attends AA meetings and keeps in touch with her sponsor. Without even a high school education, she maintains stable, full-time employment to support her children, regardless of the many changes and difficulties she has endured.

While in FSS, Vanessa joined the CCCS program and cleared her debt, paying \$35 a month for 16 months. At the same time, Vanessa enrolled in the Family Savings Account program, saved money for the down payment and closing costs on a home and received a \$1,000 match.

Vanessa made history as the first person in Lancaster City to purchase a home through the Section 8 Homeownership program. She came to Lancaster homeless, and is now the owner of a three bedroom row home in a quiet Lancaster City neighborhood.

Vanessa is also a very involved mom. Her oldest daughter just graduated from Millersville which she attended on a full scholarship, her second oldest daughter finishes an LPN program in April, and she has three children at home.