

MY STORY

FRANKIE

Single father of teenage twins
a resident of The Trinity House



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Sixteen years ago Mahogany and Frankie, Jr. were born with drug addictions. Child Protective Services gave us a reunification plan and instructed us to abstain from mind altering substances. It was a struggle for their mother and the children were put into foster homes. I decided to step up to the responsibility of being a father to my children. I began attending church, found a new group of friends and lived a life of sobriety which allowed me weekly visits with my children.

I began making healthier decisions. One day while sitting in my new apartment reading Dr. Seuss stories to my babies, I realized how exciting my new life had become. I asked my mother to move in with me to help take care of the kids; I didn't have a good history with her so this turned out to be a perfect opportunity to show her that I could be a nurturing parent. Things began to take shape; I was shining shoes and doing janitorial work in Fashion Valley while my mother watched the kids.

In May, 2002, I married a pretty Caribbean lady. We met at my daughter's 5th grade PTA meeting; our children were in the same class. After the marriage I was the only one working and I found that to be difficult. The bills were not being met because the cost of living was escalating at a rapid rate that outpaced my income. We eventually had to give up my apartment and our family split up.

I had met Glen and Evelyn at church and I noticed how much joy they shared. I wanted to connect with them. My daughter and I talked and decided to join their church. I spoke with Deacon Perry and he mentioned that Glen and his wife had transitional housing -- The Trinity House provided transitional housing for women and men with their children - this was unheard of. I met with Glen and Evelyn. When I began to share with them that I had a job and wasn't looking for a hand-out but, rather, a place where me and my children could be together because we had no other resources. Evelyn and Glen asked no embarrassing questions but instead rolled out the red carpet and welcomed us to The Trinity House.

We arrived at The Trinity House on September 10, 2006, and since then everything has lined back up. I'm paying bills and we're all together. My heart's desire is that my wife, who is still living separately, will join me again someday.