



Friday, December 12, 2008 |
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New Home for Family

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OCTAVIA MITCHELL/COUNT ON 2 NEWS
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One of the single mothers who faced eviction from the Gadsden Green Housing Project has a new place to live.

The family had forty-five days to leave the housing project. Several mothers faced eviction after their children, who are now serving sentences were charged with a crime. For Jacqueline Clinton, her six children, and one grandson, this new apartment is a new beginning. Clinton says, "It is a new day. I feel blessed, very blessed. I didn't think this morning would have started off like this. I'm very happy, very happy. Four bedrooms, maybe five, two three bathrooms, the kids have already picked out they're rooms and everything. I can't even explain it. The joy I feel right now, I can't even explain it none of this, I'm overwhelmed."

Fourteen-year-old Devonte Smith says the ordeal took a toll. He says, "It was very hard. So much stuff happened. I can't even think about as much stuff happened. I'm just happy that we're going to still be around here and still have the same friends that we always did, and that we can still go to our same school." Now he and his family have a place to call home. Devonte says, "First my prayers about finding a new home, everything going to be alright, that's been answered. Prayers about having to stay at the same place with the same family, that's been answered too. The prayers that everything is going to be alright, for my parents not be mad and stuff and worried about a place to go, that's been answered too."

The landlord Christopher Hart says he just wanted to help the family and worked it out so Ms. Clinton and her children could afford the new apartment.

Charleston City Councilman Wendell Gilliard played a major role in helping to find the new home. He says, "We are going to help all the mothers, by any means necessary. This is about saving the children. This is about challenging the law, and how the law is distributed." Gilliard says plans are also in the works to help the other mother who does not have a place to stay.

Because of this case, State Senator Robert Ford proposed a bill that would require landlords to secure a tenants property when they are evicted, to prevent possessions from being tossed out on the streets. Ford says, "You just can't put people stuff out in the streets. The more humane thing to do is to have a warehouse set up. Landlords would bring stuff to the warehouse, and the tenant would pay for the lease

of the warehouse while the stuff is there, also pay the landlord what they owe them."

The bill is in a Senate sub committee, and Ford says he's optimistic about its outcome during the next legislative session.