Imagine spending 27 years of your life without stable housing; every day facing the same uncertainty of a place to call home. One day, because of a global pandemic, you make a decision to completely change your circumstances. Because of that, you set off in a new direction, a new area of the country, and a new hope of a better life. Then, finally you discover a place that makes renewal and life transformation possible.

This is the story about Ms. Rami. She drifted through life the past 27 years; wandering throughout the country. Her transient lifestyle left her unsettled without a place to call home. When the Coronavirus Pandemic hit, she was staying at a shelter outside Washington, D.C. Like many of us, she felt scared, and uncertain. She didn't know where to go, but knew she would be safer away from large cities. A series of phone calls ultimately allowed God to lead her to Panama City, Florida. Not knowing anything about her destination, she boarded a Greyhound bus. Her journey ended at the Panama City Rescue Mission's Bethel Village Women and Children's Shelter. Ms. Rami arrived with almost nothing and knowing no one. The Bethel Village of Panama City Rescue Mission staff treated her with dignity and respect. She found a clean, safe, and courteous environment where she was offered a place to stay to work on recovery and restoration in her life. Indeed, she had been rescued.

All PCRM guests are welcomed in the same manner as Ms. Rami. Each is given time and case management to meet their individual needs by providing assistance to regain independence, gain employment, and transition to stable housing. She was given a Bible, attended internal chapel services, and as a result, renewed her relationship with God. Meanwhile, the PCRM staff worked with Doorways of Northwest Florida. And behold, having never qualified for any programs previously, she qualified for their services. The Doorways team soon had her qualified, and secured with their financial assistance, a perfect-for-her one bedroom apartment in Jackson County.

Ms. Rami was a PCRM no-fee transition guest for six weeks. She received not only food, clothing, shelter, and assistance, but fulfillment of spiritual needs with the care, compassion, and love of Jesus Christ. Being grateful, she happily provided her labor assisting the PCRM staff with cleaning and administrative tasks. Her PCRM Case Manager recently drove her to her new apartment in Jackson County. Thanks to generous donors, the PCRM was able to provide bedding, towels, clothing, shoes, hygiene products and food for her new home. She was able to purchase a few things for herself but is still in need of furniture. Specifically, a twin- or full-size bed, dresser, couch, living room furniture, tv, and microwave.

If you can help her with any of the items mentioned, please call our Volunteer Coordinator at 850-276-1887 Since 1973, the Panama City Rescue Mission has been committed to Christ-centered rescue, recovery, and restoration in an effort to break the destructive cycle of poverty and homelessness.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me."- Romans 15:2-3



Rami (right) with her Case Manager, Erin standing in front of her new apartment



Rami, Erin, Jackie