



At The EPICENTER at Edgewood, the air was filled with warmth and hope. It was here that Shevon, a retired disabled veteran, walked through the doors seeking support and connection. With a determined spirit, she approached the guest table, her heart heavy from the burdens she carried. The wait for shelter had left her feeling drained financially and emotionally.

The staff welcomed her with open arms, knowing how vital it was to create a safe space for individuals like Shevon. They listened intently as she shared her story—a narrative marked by resilience but also by challenges. With two children to care for, Shevon was desperately searching for resources that could help them regain their footing. The friendly faces at The EPICENTER recognized her struggle and were determined to make a difference in her life.

“Let’s see how we can champion you and your family,” one of the staff members said, a reassuring smile on their face. Because of the Champion a Chair program, they were able to connect Shevon to supportive housing resources, ensuring she had a roof over her head while she worked towards financial stability. It wasn’t just about providing temporary relief; it was about fostering a sense of community that would help her heal.

Over the next few months, The EPICENTER staff worked closely with Shevon, guiding her through the complexities of securing employment. They helped her polish her resume and prepared her for interviews, all while offering encouragement. Each small victory was celebrated—an interview scheduled, a job lead uncovered, and the first steps taken toward financial security.

As Shevon regained her employment, she felt a flicker of hope ignite within her. The EPICENTER became more than just a resource center; it transformed into a lifeline. With each passing day, she found herself surrounded by a community that championed her success. No longer did she feel isolated in her struggles; instead, she experienced the power of connection.

With the support of her champions, Shevon faced the gap between jobs with renewed strength. Together, they crafted a plan to navigate her finances and make the most of her limited resources. They taught her about budgeting and finding community assistance programs that could help bridge the gap until her first paycheck arrived. As she watched her children thrive in a stable environment, Shevon felt a sense of pride swell within her. She was not just a recipient of help; she was a part of a community that believed in her and stood by her side.

5 months had passed since Shevon first walked through the doors of The EPICENTER. She had not only regained employment but also discovered a renewed sense of purpose. The friendships she formed and the support she received helped her transform her life and that of her children. They were champions of her journey, celebrating every milestone along the way. Shevon realized that she was no longer alone. She had weathered the storm with the help of the community that rallied around her, and for the first time in a long while, she felt hopeful about the future. Together, they were building a new life—one where hope, connection, and strength thrived, thanks to the spirit of championing each other at The EPICENTER.