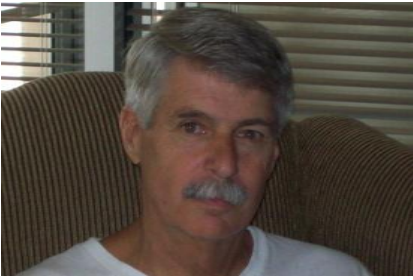


FROM RAGS TO RICHES – MARVIN’S STORY



Marvin’s story closely resembles the typical American story – of long ago. Marvin grew up on a farm in Virginia with hard working parents and his grandmother. At a very early age, Marvin was taught the discipline of hard work, honesty and responsibility. Marvin’s work ethic began at the age of 7 years old when he was assigned the job of taking care of the smaller farm animals, cleaning the barn, and gathering the chicken eggs. Marvin spent most of his life living out the legacy instilled in him.

Marvin’s hard work paid off! Marvin started his own construction company with a very close and trusted friend. Marvin and his business partner built their company from the ground up investing in real estate; purchasing, restoring, and remodeling residential condominiums.

Unfortunately, Marvin’s financial success turned to tragedy, at a pivotal point in his life and business. Marvin’s business partner stole his identity and embezzled all of the money they had invested and earned from their contracting business - leaving the business completely bankrupt, Marvin destitute and owing his debtors thousands of dollars. Yet, despite the hardship of being betrayed by his friend and business partner, losing all of his life’s earnings and the threat of bankruptcy hanging over his head Marvin could not forget the “golden rules” instilled in him from his parents -- hard work, honesty and responsibility.

Marvin’s determination to honor the legacy instilled in him by his parents left him no choice – he must accept the responsibility for his debts and pay off his debtors. Marvin sold his business and all of his assets and paid off his debtors – leaving him completely destitute – with no money, no home, and no business. Marvin faced his greatest challenge -- he was **HOMELESS!**

After sleeping on the streets of Houston, for a week, Marvin began making inquiries of other homeless individuals and shelters about where to seek help. The word that came to him repeatedly was “go to Lord of the Streets Episcopal Church (LOTS), they will help you-they help everybody.” Marvin faced with few options, followed the advice of the street homeless and went to LOTS for help.

At LOTS, Marvin was able to receive case management, financial assistance to obtain his identification and birth certificate (his papers were stolen while living on the streets), temporary shelter, clothing, and transportation assistance during his job search. After working closely with Marvin for several months, he was accepted into the Project New Options for Alleviating Homeless (NOAH) Transitional Housing Program, a collaborative housing program between LOTS and The AIDS Foundation of Houston.

Today, at the age of 62, Marvin’s life has once again transcended from a rags to riches story. After a year and three months, Marvin has completed the NOAH Transitional Housing Program at LOTS, is working, and has moved into his own apartment with financial assistance from LOTS, for his first month’s rent.