Welcome to The Way Home, your guide to how LA County is helping people and communities affected by homelessness.

A special holiday message

I’m so proud to say that my 3-year-old son, Bentley, and I are celebrating Christmas in our own home this year.

I’ve experienced homelessness throughout my life — I’m a single mom, rent was unaffordable and I’ve survived domestic violence.

But I never gave up, even as I struggled with and battled mental health issues. My son needs me.

Last year, I was connected to people who could help me, including the Los Angeles County Development Authority.
Through the Development Authority’s Homeless Incentive Program — which included help applying for a lease, paying necessary fees and making sure I could put down a security deposit — in August I was able to rent a two-bedroom home for me and my son.

Now, we’re spending the holidays in our very own home.

I am forever grateful to everyone that helped me and my son find safety, security and serenity. When I felt ready to give up, the people from the Los Angeles County Development Authority were there to offer support and hope.

My son is thriving in our new place— he loves playing in the backyard and watching me cook in the kitchen.

And I’m proud to say that I am on the honor roll and on the president’s list at Antelope Valley College, where I’m studying psychology. I want to be able to help people who are struggling, just like I did.

To those who are still on the path to finding housing, my message is clear: Keep going. There is a light at the end of the dark tunnel.

On Christmas Day, Bentley and I will gather around the tree in our living room and give thanks for all the people, including you, that helped us find the way home.

Destiny
VIDEO: Destiny and her three-year-old son Bentley decorate for their first Christmas at home.

In case you missed it

- LA County has developed an action plan for homelessness prevention using predictive modeling research that can identify residents using County services that are at high risk of becoming homeless.

- Twenty-three graduates from the Careers for a Cause job training program are poised to become case managers and other workers in the homeless services industry.

- What happens when pet parents experience homelessness? See how LA County steps in to give furry four-legged family members a loving home while their owner finds a forever home.
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