

A New View

Duo Moves From Homeless To Lakefront Apartment

Could it be fate?

Two people ending up in the same place at the same time, at a similar point in their lives?

It may very well be.

After moving into Project Return's supportive housing complex, Friendship Palms on the very same day in August of 1998, Jenny and Ken started dating and were married in November of 2000.

After living there for six years and taking full advantage of all the services Project Return has to offer, the married couple felt ready to take the next step to community living. In June, they moved into a two-bedroom apartment with a beautiful view of the lake.

But life hasn't always been this good for Jenny and Ken...

After being diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder, Ken was forced to live and eat in homeless shelters, and even had to sleep under bridges at times.

Ken explains, **“Project Return saved me. The staff re-taught me how to live, think, and behave. They transformed me from a homeless person to a fully functional person with mental illness.”**

Jenny had been diagnosed with depression and came very close to being homeless. She had been living with her parents and was being forced to move out on her own.

Support staff Laurel Jorgensen explains, “HUD individuals usually come to Project



It Had To Be Fate. Jenny, Ken and their new puppy, Sammy.

Return for permanent housing. For them to go from living on the streets, to residing in an apartment, being financially and mentally grounded is a huge accomplishment!”

Laurel plans to keep in touch with the couple through Project Return's new Community Living and Outreach Program.

Through this program, supportive housing staff will meet with members living independently in the community to assist with budgeting, communication skills, medication management, achieving personal goals, and much more.

Jenny is currently attending Erwin Technical Center and working towards her GED. Their dream is not different than most: They would like to own a house in the next three to five years.

They look forward to continuing relationships with the people who have helped them get where they are today, including Project Return staff as well as the lifelong friends they've met along the way.

For information about our Community Living and Outreach Program, contact Pam Healy at (813) 933-9020 or phealy@projectreturn.org.