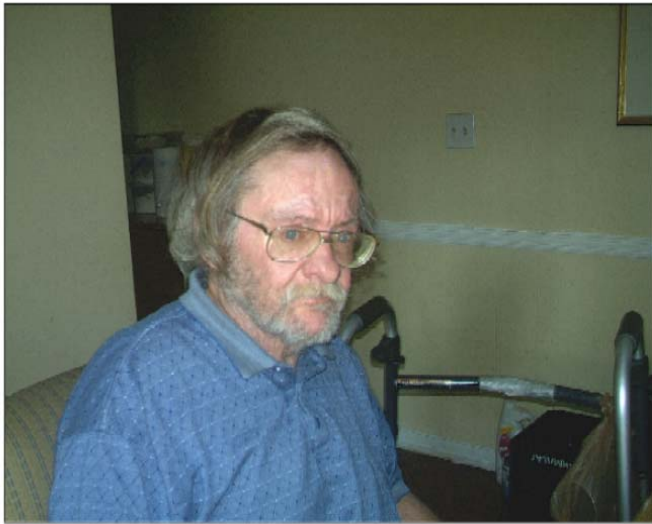


Regional Commission on Homelessness

United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta
100 Edgewood Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



Success Story: Bill Chanaberry



Bill Chanaberry is a disabled veteran who lived at the Atlanta Union Mission shelter for over five years. He kept all his worldly possessions in plastic bags tied to his old walker which could not even collapse to fit in a car or on the bus. He had not had a haircut or been able to shave in years. He had no identification of any kind, and he was unable to see because he had lost his glasses.

Bill sought help to resolve his homelessness. Case managers from Positive Outlook Foundation referred him and personally transported him, because his disability made riding MARTA difficult for him, to obtain the many services he needed. They provided him with

tools so he could trim his hair and beard. They placed him in a transitional apartment, and they reconnected him with the Veteran's Administration and the VA Hospital.

Two months later, Bill had his birth certificate, two forms of picture identification, and new eyeglasses. His monthly veteran's pension was reinstated, and he received a check for nearly \$10,000 in back compensation for the many years during which his pension benefits had been suspended. In addition, he began attending physical therapy appointments and received a new walker.

Doctors at the VA Hospital diagnosed Bill with dementia resulting from his many years of alcohol abuse, which makes him unable to live independently. With help from Positive Outlook and the Gateway Center, Bill overcame his alcohol addiction and moved into a personal care home in Decatur, where he resides today.

Away from the streets and the shelter, Bill leads a much different life than before. The personal care home provides him with meals, cleaning, and laundry services, as well as transportation to his VA appointments. Bill says this about his new life: "I'm doing what I need to do. I go to all my appointments. It's not crowded here; I like it."

For more information about the Regional Commission on Homelessness, contact Protip Biswas, Executive Director, at 404.527.7237 or pbiswas@unitedwayatlanta.org.