

Foot Notes

"Food on Foot turns tax burdens into tax payers."

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983 Consecutive Weeks

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ALWAYS HAPPY AND NO LONGER HOMELESS

By Rachel Roberts



Carlos M. — Gray Shirt

Twenty-eight year old Carlos M., Food on Foot's newest Gray Shirt, has always lived with family in the Los Angeles area. Two years ago, he lost his job due to a back injury and began receiving temporary disability benefits. "I was struggling at everything and I wasn't able to find a job due to my back injury," he said. Struggling to pay rent to his uncle, with whom he stayed, he searched daily for employment. "[My uncle] gave me many chances to find a job but I wasn't well enough to work. It took me two and a half years to go through all of my life savings. When my unemployment benefits ended, he knew that I didn't have any money left, so he kicked me out," Carlos said. So it was on September 26, 2014 that Carlos became homeless.

Carlos then bounced around the shelters on Skid Row. Not only was this Carlos' first time being homeless, but he was finishing up his last semester of college. Trying to finish school with dreams of one day working for the Department of Homeland Security, he also sought employment to get him off of the streets. He looks to his higher power

for help but remains driven and focused to prove his family wrong. At the shelter one day, he met a man who told him about Food on Foot and how he could get a job and housing. He came the next Sunday to FOF and didn't miss a week.

"Ever since I found a good program called Food on Foot, I am here to find a job and an apartment. I am glad that I found them! I know that I was struggling but I managed to go to school and to graduate while homeless. It wasn't easy for me but I did it because I believe in myself and nothing can stop me," Carlos said. His time living on the streets did not damper his spirits. It was his positive outlook and charisma that moved him through to receiving his Gray Shirt at our Christmas serving on December 21, 2014.

"Thanks to [Food on Foot], I now have a job at Stella Barra [in Hollywood] and I have my own apartment. This is the first time in my life that I have my own apartment," he said humbly. Witnessing him find joy in these small things reminds me how much I take for granted. If I were in the same situation, as someone who has never faced something as bleak as homelessness, I would be angry at the amount on my paycheck and the total square footage of my apartment. But not Carlos! He always has a smile on his face! He said, "I'm glad for all the help that I have been receiving from Food on Foot. Now, I have my life back! I'm glad for God for giving me a second chance. I'm also thankful to Jay and Rachel for everything they have done for me. They have not given up on me like my own family gave up on me. No matter what, I see Food on Foot as my second family."

**Welcome Aboard
to Our Newest
\$98 Club Members!**

JANUARY

Sara Connally
Carol Francis
Juanita Garcia
Kimberly Larkins
Rasheedah Shakoor

www.foodonfoot.org



In early 2015, we are excited to unveil a new look and website for Food on Foot.

While we may look a little different, our unique organization will still be built around our phenomenal donors and volunteers dedicated to serving the homeless and poor as we have for the last 983 weeks!

www.foodonfoot.org