

Painting a New Future: Beverly's I Choose Home NJ Success Story

Beverly is a painter, a mother of three and a testament to the power of determination. After four years living in a nursing home, she moved back to the community in the summer of 2022, and has been thriving ever since.

While at the nursing home, she often spoke of her desire to live on her own. "They didn't believe me when I said I was leaving. They said I would need 24 hour care. I told them they don't know who they're talking to."

Determined, Beverly never let what others said get in the way of her going home.

"My wanting to get out of that place was so much greater than them wanting to keep me." Along with her self-advocacy, she had a team of people who helped make her goal of community living come true. She is grateful to the nursing home staff, I Choose Home staff, and her care management team for working with her every step of the way.

"You have to want it, you have to really want it."

Beverly's determination to make it on her own changed her life, she says. "I'm pretty self-sufficient in a lot of ways. I'm doing more and more things people said I would never do. I do things to take care of myself. I'm working on making my own food. I'm working with my home health aide on my walking."

Now she is looking forward to her next goal: to move to Florida to be with loved ones. "I'm looking forward to so many things now. I've got a life now. It's better than the one I had before."

I Choose Home NJ is a federal demonstration program to help individuals transition from institutions into the community. For more information, visit www.ichoosehome.nj.gov or call 855-466-3005.

