

Penny

SAMARITAN HOUSE WOMEN'S SHELTER AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM CLIENT

I grew up with two loving and hard-working parents. I was the youngest of eight. Although I had a good upbringing, I was molested and started using drugs to cope with the pain. **I messed up my life and ended up at the Samaritan House Women's Shelter.**



Samaritan House is a good place – three square meals a day, heat, a hot shower. But I knew that I wanted to live on my own. **While I was at Samaritan House, I kept falling down. The third time I fell, the hospital conducted more tests and found that I had cancer.** The Samaritan House staff were wonderful. They let me stay in bed to rest during the day and connected me with LUW's Supportive Housing Program.

Now, I have my own apartment to recover from chemo. That means the world to me. Because of my condition, we don't know what will happen. I'm just trying to stay positive and not take anything for granted.

If Lifting Up Westchester didn't exist, I'd still be in the shelter, I wouldn't be diagnosed, and I wouldn't have a fighting chance to live.

