

February 9, 2009

To Whom It Concerns:

I am Connie Jean McCabe a 46 year old white female. I was diagnosed with Failed Back Syndrome twelve years ago. One thing lead to another and I ended up with gastric bypass surgery five years ago. This surgery didn't go well; I was back five weeks later with a ruptured bleeding ulcer and had to re-do the bypass. Since that time I have had nothing but trouble and more surgeries every year since then.

A year ago last October, I found myself in a situation. I was given an eviction notice from the apartment complex in which I was a resident. I being in poor health myself, was trying to assist my 22 year old son attain disability for a seizure disorder. I became past due on my rent by three months and was being evicted. I was very timid and was worried about coming into a homeless shelter. I wasn't sure I would feel comfortable or safe living in this kind of situation. After meeting the staff and other residents, I found them to be wonderful from the beginning and I knew this place would be good for me.

In November 2008, I had a complete hysterectomy due to having a large tumor attached to an ovary. In December 2008, things went from bad to worse. I didn't know it but, my intestines had a small pinhole leak. I am not 100 percent sure how it happened but, after two different falls I had busted my intestines wide open. No body knew this for a couple months. I ended up aspirating in my apartment and was unaware of what was happening. Staff from the apartments frequently checked on me as they had been worried. The ambulance was called and I was taken to emergency surgery in Columbia, MO. The Executive Director was by my side and went to Columbia for my surgery. The whole time the doctors didn't think I would live through the surgery. By the grace of God, I did survive. I feel I would not be alive if I didn't live in the Friendship Apartments when I aspirated.

I am now doing much better except I am malnourished and must take multi-vitamins through a port-a-catheter for fourteen hours daily. I am lucky the local hospital is across the street and I have access as needed.

The Executive Director recently sent out memos to all residents to see if we could cut expenses by using less utilities, etc. It is my understanding funding comes from HUD with a match required. The match funding used to come from High Hope but, with the recent economic downturn, they don't have the required match. I am writing to encourage the government officials to fund this match.

This place helps many people who find themselves homeless and could help many more in the future. The staff and board care about all the underprivileged individuals in the community and I personally am impressed. I really don't know what I will be forced into doing if the Friendship Apartment has to close.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Connie J. McCabe". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Connie J. McCabe

In Loving Memory of
Connie Jean McCabe
April 2, 1962-December 19, 2009

