

FORMER RESIDENT ROARS TO SUCCESS

Our House has received a special gift from a former resident who is now a full time artist and apartment manager. On a cold February day, Bennie Parker showed up at Our House with a beautiful painting in hand. His situation was much different than when he came to Our House three years ago. This time, Bennie explained, he was here because, “My heart told me to bring this picture over to the place that had something to do with my success. That’s this place.”

Bennie Parker was a resident at Our House in 2000 and 2004. Bennie participated in the training program at Our House and lived both at



The Shelter and in the Family Housing Program.

After being in and out of shelters and

on the street, Bennie finally said to himself, “I’m just tired of this life.”



Bennie recalls a prayer he made when he was still homeless. “I prayed to God that He would open doors for me—He gave me talents to use and I prayed that he would open doors for me to use them.”

Now Bennie is a full time artist working from a home studio in his own apartment. His art

is on display at Starving Artist Café, The Showroom and The Clinton Museum Store. He primarily uses charcoal, pastel, oil and ink and paints and draws portraits on request.

Beaming with pride, Bennie explained, ***“When I was at Our House, the staff told me that the only way I was going to be a success was if I got motivated and pursued my dreams. I did that and now I’m going for bigger and better goals!”***

We are proud to highlight Bennie as an Our House Success Story. To read about other Our House Success Stories, please visit our website at www.ourhouseshelter.org. To commission a portrait or artwork from Bennie, contact him at 501-398-8438.

