



## Initiatives in Action: Adult Self Sufficiency Initiative



We can do more together.

### New Digs, New-Found Hope

Larry “Joe” Robinson proudly offers a tour of his new home in downtown Denver.

“I ended up with a small view of the mountains,” says Robinson. “It’s nothing special to paint a picture about, but it’s mine.”

The cozy, efficiency apartment is the first real home he has had since moving to Colorado almost two-years ago from his home state of Oklahoma.

“When I moved to Colorado I was ready to give up on myself,” says Robinson.

Without a job, a support system of friends and family and no place to live, Joe found himself living in shelters and often times on the street. He was depressed and lonely. He knew he needed help. His first step was counseling.

“Once they got in my business they didn’t stay out of it,” he says.

The next step was finding a stable home. After a brief time in short-term housing, Joe applied for a spot in the new Aromor Apartments project in Downtown Denver. The transformational housing project is a collaborative between Mile High United Way, Denver’s Road Home and Mercy Housing through United Way’s Adult Self Sufficiency Initiative (which provides opportunities for hardworking individuals and families to become financially stable and provide a better future for themselves.

The Aromor offers 66 rental apartments for men and women who have experienced homelessness and are looking for a place to call home. Those living there are required to pay rent that is equivalent to 30-percent of their monthly income. The building is unique and historic. Once a high-end hotel for Colorado lawmakers in the early part of the 20th century, it fell into disrepair in the past decade. Now

refurbished and restored, the building is serving to give those in need, like Joe, a chance at a new life.

“When I was encouraged to apply,” says Joe, “I said, you bet! It sounded nice.”



*Joe stands outside his new home, the Aromor Apartments*

## New Digs, New-Found Hope - cont.

Aromor offers more than a physical home. On-site staff work one-on-one to support residents and help them connect to community resources like education and employment, addiction treatment services and more.

Joe expects to soon begin this new chapter of his life by going back to school. He says the Aromor and Mile High United Way have put him back on the path of life.

“When I walked in the door,” says Joe, “I felt like I was home.”

For more information about our Adult Self Sufficiency Initiative, please visit our website at [www.unitedwaydenver.org](http://www.unitedwaydenver.org).

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**Mile High United Way**