

My name is Fernando Garcia, a member of The Key Clubhouse of South Florida, and I have been having troubles with housing during the last years. It has been difficult for me to keep a full time job with a decent salary because my health, especially my major depressive disorder, has deteriorated with age and personal problems. Simultaneously, housing costs have raised in Miami to a ridiculous level. Today, it is very difficult for a person who lives by themselves and has no family to afford a regular rent. A couple of years ago, I tried applying at an “affordable housing building for seniors with low income” in NW 79th Street. I almost couldn’t believe it, but besides the expected maximum income limit, they also had a MINIMUM INCOME LIMIT OF \$15,000 A YEAR!

Though it is very hard sometimes, I keep striving to earn enough money to get to the end of the month and The Key Clubhouse has helped me with that. They got me a decent and meaningful job, a part-time for the moment. This job has been a great help not only financially, but also morally, which I consider the most important thing for a person with mental illness. I have been experiencing a “housing crisis” during the last months and the clubhouse has also been helping look for a place I could afford.

A decent place to live is one of the main things any human being should have and I consider that that there is still a lot of work to do about this issue in our society of today.