

The Cheryl Detwieller Story



Years ago, left in an abusive situation, Cheryl left with her kids and lived in a field and worked at a small farm near Thornton. She told her family that they were having fun and camping out for the Summer. She couldn't collect welfare because she didn't have an address. She vowed never to be on welfare again.

Finally she "moved up" to a "roach motel." She heard about Habitat but didn't think it was real. People like her never owned their own home. She finally got involved in the program. In the process of building her own home she brought her whole family together. Her daughter was starting to get in trouble and had run away once. Building their home changed her daughter and brought her back into the family. She was so excited about having a real home. They did way over 500 hours. Once a homeowner, Cheryl was able to pursue her real dream of becoming an artist. She had always dabbled in art, but problems with housing, transportation, her daughter, etc. didn't allow her the time and she just didn't have the courage. Because she now had more disposable income as a homeowner and a lot less stress, she could invest in a reliable car which helped her keep a stable job. On the side she now pursued art work. If she could build her own house she could do anything! She ended up working with a famous mural artist. This artist was hired to do mural at DIA and he asked Cheryl to work with him. The mural are big colorful murals depicting children, Indians, etc. They are in the main concourse near the baggage terminals. Next time you go to DIA, look for Cheryl's name at the bottom. She now does a lot of commissioned work. Her life has changed completely since becoming a homeowner.