

INVEST IN BEDS PLUS, INVEST IN YOUR COMMUNITY



Denise & Ariel Diaz

MEET THE DIAZ FAMILY

Denise and Ariel have been married for 20 years. They have 4 children – two are in college and two are in high school. Denise works full time at Oak Park Hospital as a unit clerk and ER tech. Ariel, a native of Cuba, works odd jobs when available. They became homeless after Ariel lost his job. The family quickly fell behind in bills. St. Leonard's Church in Berwyn referred them to BEDS Plus.

What are your goals for the future?

We would like to be financially stable. Ariel would like to find a full time job and possibly attend trade school. He enjoys working in trucking dispatch. Denise would also like to go back to school and study nursing. Their daughter currently goes to SIU and is studying nursing. "Education is important to us and our children. We want them to at least finish high school." says Ariel.

What BEDS program or service has been most valuable to you and why?

Hotel and rental assistance. BEDS helped Ariel get his state id and a waiver for the fee. Gas cards and furniture donations have also been a big help to us. The BEDS' staff is great. They are so patient with clients and really listen to your needs.

What should people know about being homeless and the misconceptions?

The economy has driven many to homelessness. There are so many families on the street. More than you know. You're judged right away for being lazy or having drug/alcohol problems. People look down upon you. Please try not to judge.

Is there anything else you would like to share?

"We try to stay positive." says Ariel. "We will do what we have to do to keep going and keep our family together."

