

Meet Chris & Larkin

Single dad and Army veteran, Christopher Price, never imagined becoming homeless after returning to Dallas following his tour of duty. His experiences and training as an Ammunitions Specialist gave this Oak Cliff native a bigger view of the world and valuable life skills. “I was deployed to Baghdad, then spent time in Germany, traveled to Spain and Amsterdam, then finished in Washington State,” said Price. “I flew in Blackhawk helicopters and was responsible for ammo from 9mm rounds to missiles.”



Back in Dallas he returned to his mother’s home to get his feet on the ground. He honed his carpentry skills building furniture; selling bookcases, speaker boxes and other items to friends and neighbors. Chris made his living in construction, “pouring concrete and digging ditches,” he said. With a big smile he added, “I’d really like a job where you can sit down and be inside!”

That future could seem impossible to someone less committed, because Chris and his daughter are currently homeless. Overcoming challenges is nothing new to Chris, who became the sole caregiver to his baby daughter, Larkin, in 2007. “My mother helped, but I learned a lot about parenting and what to do on the Internet,” Chris shared.

Homelessness became a reality in February 2011 when Chris was laid off from his job. Bills mounted and when there was no money for rent, he and 3-year-old Larkin had some tough choices. Chris considered his options: relying on family or having the courage to strike out on his own. He quickly found there are few options for single dads experiencing homelessness. “(A shelter) gave us a room, but they weren’t really equipped for children on the men’s side,” said Price. “Family Gateway does help single dads and has the childcare and activities that allowed me to do the things I needed to do.”

What’s next for Chris? College. “It’s just sticking to the plan,” he said. The plan includes getting his prerequisites completed to enter El Centro’s Vocational Nursing program. “Then comes my LVN, the RN Bridge Program, an RN and finally a masters at TWC or UT Southwestern to become a Nurse Practitioner,” shared Price. “I want Larkin to go to school and get an education. I’m hopeful my going to school will show her – that we’ll be able to motivate each other. We can play games like who has the best grades.”

Enjoy a [short video](#) featuring Chris and Larkin.

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