



Real Stories. Real Impact.

Sheila M., Enfield

“Now I feel safer and I don’t worry.”

Retiree Sheila M. lives in a senior housing complex in Enfield, where she’s active in her church and spends plenty of time with her 3 children and 6 grandchildren. In November 2016, she had eye transplant surgery that left her with impaired vision in low light and at night. As the shorter winter days were approaching, her doctor recommended that Sheila move to a different unit with more natural light, in a well-lit area of the complex close to the parking lot. Twice, Sheila submitted notes from her doctor requesting the move, but received no response from the property manager. That’s when she contacted the Center.

The Center’s staff helped Sheila to submit a **reasonable accommodation** request to her housing provider, asking that she be moved to a unit with better lighting and easier access to the parking lot, as recommended by her doctor. (Reasonable accommodations are changes that enable people with disabilities to fully use, access, or enjoy their housing, and refusing to make such accommodations is considered disability discrimination under federal and state law.) After the Center intervened, the housing provider finally granted Sheila’s request, and soon after she was able to move to a new unit.

“If the Center had not intervened, I’d still be stuck,” Sheila says. To find a unit that met her needs, she says, “I might have had to move out of Enfield and be further from my family. Now I feel safer and I don’t worry.”