

My name is Sabrina Oliver I write to you in support of the Thompson v. HUD settlement. My life, and the lives of my two children have changed drastically since we received an MBQ voucher and moved to Anne Arundel County.

My 9 year-old daughter suffered from a severe form of asthma that prevented her from doing most types of physical activity when we lived in Edmondson Village in west Baltimore. She was even hospitalized for three days while the doctors tried to get her asthma under control. Also, I had my own struggles with debilitating depression and I received disability benefits because of it. I wanted to get out because of the killings. I wanted a better life for my children and myself.

I signed up for the MBQ program as soon as I learned about it, and what struck me was how well I was treated. The counselors were wonderful and helpful and I knew that they were available to answer questions if I had any. The process was pretty straightforward, I went to the workshops, saved for the security deposit, and set out to start a new life. I first moved to Parkville, then to Orchard Beach in Anne Arundel County. Over the three years that we lived in Parkville, my daughter saw a steady improvement in her health, and she's experienced no symptoms since we moved to Orchard Beach.

In addition to this, my 16 year-old son always struggled in school. When we lived in Edmondson Village, I tried everything, but nothing helped. The schools were failing him. I chose Anne Arundel County because I heard that they have excellent schools. Now, my son is doing wonderfully and just made the honor roll for the first time in his life.

As for me, my depression feels like it's gone and I am no longer on disability. My new environment has motivated me to want something better for my kids and myself. I was able to find work as a patient home care technician and I've gone back to school, at Anne Arundel Community College, to become a drug and alcohol counselor. I chose this profession because I think that it is important to give back to communities that are less fortunate. This is what motivated me to join the board of the organization that implements the *Thompson* vouchers, Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership, Inc. I support this settlement because I believe that it will give families a brighter future and the much-needed hope that I now have.

Sabrina Oliver