

A Veteran Family Reunited

Mr. Lawrence Miller, a 64 year old retired Army Veteran, wanted desperately to find permanent housing so he could bring his family together under one roof. Natives of Minnesota, Mr. Miller had been living on park benches on the streets of Columbia while his wife stayed with friends. Unfortunately, due to homelessness, he and his wife completely lost touch with their adult son. When the staff of the Alston Wilkes Society received a referral for Mr. Miller, the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) case workers immediately scheduled an appointment to begin the intake process. He was placed in emergency housing where he stayed for about three months while working to obtain permanent housing. The apartment search began and the AWS SSVF program was able to provide transportation to several appointments with apartment managers and assist Mr. Miller with filling out the applications. In some instances, the application fees were lowered or waived, but when that wasn't possible AWS provided financial assistance.



Finally, in January, Mr. Miller secured an affordable apartment close to the bus line where he and his wife could live together. The AWS staff assisted Mr. Miller with moving his personal belongings from a storage unit to his new apartment and donated many necessary items he was lacking. The case workers took him to the local food bank where he was able to fill his new kitchen with food for himself and his family. Mr. Miller and his wife are currently living in their new apartment, have been reunited with their son and are able to maintain self-sufficiency again.

