HOUSING TO PAYCHECK

A Transitional Housing & Workforce Pathway
for People Facing Housing Instability

Maplewood • Essex County, New Jersey

A safe place to land. A clear path forward.

SAFE HEAVEN HOMES INC. • 501(c)(3) application pending

About Safe Heaven Homes

SAFE HEAVEN HOMES INC. is a New Jersey nonprofit organization founded on April 3, 2023, with a 501(c)(3) application pending. Our mission is rooted in faith and in lived experience: giving back the help we were once given — especially to young people and adults starting over after homelessness or other hardship.

A mission born of experience

Our founder and president, **Tinesha Rodrigues**, was homeless at 17 — a shelter stay and free CNA training changed the course of her life. Homeless again at 22, she received free job placement and rebuilt from there. This work is her Christian mission: to be, for others, the helping hand she once received — especially for young people finding their footing after hardship.

> *“When I picture a resident who’s made it, I see a mirror.”*

Who we are

- **Tinesha Rodrigues** — Founder & President
- **Malika Cole** — Secretary
- **Roudy Clermont** — Treasurer

Tinesha also founded and operates **Innovative Care Staffing Solutions LLC** (dba Innovative Care NJ) in Maplewood, NJ — a Joint Commission–accredited home care agency — bringing clinical and workforce expertise directly into the pilot.

The Pilot: Housing to Paycheck

Starting over is hardest without a stable place to sleep. Housing to Paycheck pairs **transitional housing** with **workforce development** — because a stable address and a steady paycheck are the two foundations of a fresh start. Each resident receives an affordable shared room and, alongside it, a pathway into healthcare work through HHA/CNA training and job placement with our accredited home care agency.

Pilot at a glance

Who it serves	**Adults facing housing instability — open to everyone, open to any number of participants**
Shared room	**$700/month, utilities included**
Application fee	**$0 — no application fee**
Background screening	**TransUnion SmartMove, ~$39 paid by the applicant**
Workforce track	**HHA/CNA training and job placement through Innovative Care Staffing Solutions LLC, a Joint Commission–accredited home care agency**
Support services	**Job-coach readiness workshop and financial literacy education for every resident**

Program Requirements

Keeping the program open to everyone means being clear about what it requires — from day one, for the safety of every resident and the success of every participant.

Admission requirements

- **Age 18 or older.** The program serves adults; younger applicants are referred to youth-serving partners.
- **Referral or direct application.** Referrals come from community partners — shelters, legal clinics, faith groups, and service agencies — or apply directly. We ask for basic documentation of housing need.
- **Valid photo ID — or working toward one.** Residents without ID are enrolled in our ID-recovery support: we help obtain a state ID, birth certificate, and Social Security card, which most employers and benefits programs require.
- **Background check.** Reviewed case by case; a record alone does not disqualify anyone — housemate safety is the deciding factor.
- **Ability to pay rent, or a plan to get there.** Residents pay $700 per month, utilities included. Those without income at intake enroll in the workforce track with a written payment plan tied to training and employment milestones.
- **House rules agreement.** Signed commitment to: no drugs, alcohol, or weapons on the premises; participation in employment or training; observance of curfew and guest policies; and respectful shared living.
- **Individualized service plan.** Every resident completes an intake assessment and a written service plan covering documents, benefits, training, employment, and a permanent-housing next step.
- **Referral partner stays in the loop.** With the resident’s consent, the referring partner (if any) receives status updates at intake, midpoint, and exit.

Referral Partnerships

We work hand in hand with community partners who meet people at their point of need — shelters, legal clinics, faith groups, and service agencies.

What referral partners get

- **Fast placement** — intake within days of referral, not weeks
- **Clear eligibility** — the requirements on the previous page, applied consistently
- **Status updates** — intake, midpoint, and exit, with resident consent
- **Warm handoffs** — a direct line to our team, not a voicemail maze

How to refer

Email or call with the person’s name, situation, and any relevant conditions Individuals may also reach out directly. We will confirm fit within one business day and schedule intake.

Contact

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We would welcome your thoughts by email.