At Pathways Vermont, many of our staff identify as having the same 'lived experiences' as the Vermonters we serve.

**86 STATEWIDE STAFF MEMBERS**

**78% HAVE EXPERIENCED MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES**

**44% HAVE EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS**

**21% HAVE BEEN INVOLUNTARILY HOSPITALIZED**

**22% HAVE ATTEMPTED SUICIDE IN THE PAST**
**A Story of Hope**

Meet Jody, Nichole and their newborn daughter, Quincy. The family recently moved into their new apartment in Burlington after a prolonged period of homelessness. Finally, they have a place to call home! To the right, Jody and Nichole tell their story in their own words:

"We were staying at a motel for 6 months, which cost us $350 a week! After that we became homeless and couch surfed... it was awful. Finally, we met with Amos (Pathways Vermont's Intake Coordinator), who was very helpful. He went above and beyond to help us out. He was very kind and courteous about everything. In fact, everyone that we’ve been working with at Pathways Vermont has been really on top of things.

J.R. (Pathways Vermont’s Housing Coordinator) was really cool, we found our apartment very quickly and our landlord has been extremely accommodating. There were people from our church who were moving and gave us all of this beautiful furniture. Then Pathways helped us out with all the bedding, bath and kitchen supplies. So we lucked out!

Having our own place is very comforting and relaxing. It’s home! It’s a beautiful place where we don’t have to worry about getting woken up in the middle of the night and told me we have to leave. I (Nichole) actually signed up for classes a couple of weeks ago. I’m going to get my G.E.D. and pursue a degree as a Registered Nurse. Finally! I’ve been talking about it forever, but now I’m situated. Once you have a home base, you can work from there. When we were floating around, there was no way I could focus on going back to school. Now we can focus on our goals, including our health care, which the Pathways Service Team has been great in that aspect as well.

What we’ve accomplished in the last year has been extraordinary! We’ve been blessed."