

3 August 2013

Dear Christos,

I'm writing to you, to commend you on such a worthwhile project that you have here with Freedom Housing.

I myself have struggled with looking after my disabled wife for years. We have contacted several departments for help in the matter, and you are the first one who has said, "Freedom Housing can help."

My wife and I were together for over ten years, but we separated in April this year because I simply was not coping with this stressful environment where absolutely EVERYTHING was depending on me.

With Freedom Housing I could still have my wife - who has disabilities - and my two children living with me, while I go out to work, knowing that there is a responsible person/s looking out for my family.

My ex-wife has tried - at least four times that I know of - to self-harm, because she was not coping without having the supports that she needs. She needs someone to be there 'on call' just in case she slips. She needed someone to take her out for appointments. She wanted to run her house - and our children's lives - but she got overwhelmed with the pressure, and I ended up staying home to help out, which was not helping me either.

I need to be out making money. I want to support my family, but I have struggled with where to get daily help. Freedom Housing will help her with these daily things like cleaning, meals, showering, getting children ready for school, dishes, washing, and child minding, just to mention a few. Your Freedom Housing would literally save our family.

I fear for my children's safety all the time. I fear because my ex goes to sleep often: because she is heavily medicated so she can deal with her constant pain. What if the children accidentally then turn on the stove? What if they try to get something from a high cupboard - that they shouldn't access - or if they fall and injure themselves?

I am deeply concerned with what to do about this situation. If we were in a Freedom Housing home, my wife could press the buzzer and say that she's too tired and not coping, and there would be someone in an instant to make sure my children were safe and out of harms way. My wife could sleep soundly, and not feel so guilty, and she would not have to leave our children unsupervised.

Honestly, I cannot wait until you have one of these homes available so that we can move in. This would change our living conditions considerably. I could still have my family together, and go out to work with peace of mind, knowing they are all looked after.

We need to be able to access 24/7 home care, and that's exactly what Freedom Housing is, giving us what we need, when we need it. Thanks Chris.

Yours truly,

Dean

(This is not my real name. Please ask Christos if you would like to get in touch with me. He will pass on your details.)