

Learn About Speak Up! - Video Transcript

Audio	Visual
[Music]	On Screen Text: Speak Up Program
<p>Vikki, Speak Up! Advocate: The CSH Speak Up! program takes formerly homeless people and teaches them to tell their story where it matters - to Senators, Congress people - in a way that can help solve the crisis of homelessness. I mean the workshops are incredible.</p>	<p>Advocates gather in a conference room. They talk with each other around a table.</p> <p>Advocates speak with Congress people in their offices.</p>
<p>Vikki: You get to learn all the latest new advances, and the coordination, and the networking of what's working today. It changes who you are. When I first got into the advocacy program, I was totally afraid. I would listen to everyone else but I would kind of just be real quiet so they wouldn't notice me.</p>	<p>Advocates speak around a conference table. They participate in a workshop.</p> <p>Vikki speaks to the camera.</p>
<p>Vikki: The whole program really changed my life, teaching me to not be afraid to tell my story, and that it does help. It's incredible - I love waking up, you know. I just, I have the greatest life. I really do. People actually call Ann English, our director, and say: "Hey, can we have that lady talk over here Because we heard about her and we want to hear her story."</p>	<p>Vikki speaks to camera.</p> <p>Ann English speaks to advocates in a conference room.</p>
<p>Vikki: I travel all over the place. I go around to Congress people, Senators, police departments, students. I love talking to student and trying to explain that, you know, this is what homelessness is. It's just a normal person that got in a bad situation - whether it be mental illness or poverty or whatever - but it's just a person.</p>	<p>Vikki is pictured with various Senators and Congress people.</p> <p>Vikki presents at a conference.</p> <p>Vikki speaks to camera.</p>
<p>Vikki: And trying to put that face to what homelessness really is, to help people get a house just like I did. And it's just knowing that I'm actually making a difference. And CSH gave me that.</p>	<p>Interior of a kitchen in a supportive housing unit is shown.</p>
<p>Vikki: My life today is incredible, I got to tell you. I wake every morning and I love my life. I appreciate my life. I have friends. I have people that care about me. I can't explain, how incredible it is to live again - after feeling like I was dying for so long.</p>	<p>Vikki walks dog down a corridor.</p> <p>Vikki puts on backpack in her bedroom.</p> <p>Vikki sits on a chair and speaks to camera.</p>

<p>Vikki: Please, please supportive housing is the answer. I live with 46 other women here in this apartment building alone. They are all success stories. Supportive housing works.</p>	<p>Vikki speaks to camera</p>
<p>[Music]</p>	<p>On Screen Text: CSH logo and csh.org/speakup</p>