

mPact Statement

FINANCIAL SUCCESS STORIES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

DONICA SNYDER

“I was living alone in my own studio apartment, but with the renter's market going up in Denver and working at a local nonprofit, I found myself needing to adjust my living situation. I lucked out on an opportunity when I learned a friend of mine was searching for a tenant to fill a room with her son going off to college. Even though I've lived with her for five years now, I want a place to call my own. I was always devastated whenever I looked at the renter's market, I kept telling myself I would never be able to afford it. I had just begun saving enough to spend on entertainment and I wasn't ready to sacrifice this accomplishment.



In January of 2019, I attended my first mpowered financial education session on how money relates to your values where I re-evaluated my relationship with money. I felt an internal conversation shift in me. I realized that my knowledge of finances stems from when I turned eighteen and was left to pay for everything on my own. I had nowhere to turn and prioritized having a savings over everything else. I never did anything fun for myself, it was just too scary, so I always found myself saying no. Little did I know, that with the tools I learned in mpowered's classes, that little voice inside my head would finally change. I established two separate savings accounts, one for a home and one for “joy” and no longer feel ashamed for spending money on what I value most. I have money saved now for things that bring me joy and I must be honest with myself to release that fear and realize that I can afford to do things and it's ok to do so. I'm now well on my way to reaching my savings goals while at the same time enjoying the entertainments of life. With a structure, it's okay for me to spend money on the things I want to spend money on. Sometimes, I say no to the little things, like a Ben and Jerry's ice cream here and there, but I know that at the end of the week, I can go out for a well-earned meal and I have the power to make that decision for myself.

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Working with mpowered has reminded me of the information I once learned but never had to apply in my actual life like credit cards and housing. After six months of working with mpowered, I already find myself excited to look at my bank account. Where once I saw nothing, I now see \$800-1000 in savings. Looking toward the future, I have the peace of mind knowing my living situation is temporary, and that in the next couple of years I will have the possibility of buying my own property, with my own furniture to

make it my home. I no longer feel stuck on this hamster wheel of life, and with my money management skills, I can finally say that I see a light at the end of the tunnel.”

