

NAME:
Ricky Fitzpatrick

OCCUPATION:
Veteran & Railway Worker

RESIDENCE:
Harvard House
Apartments
North Miami Beach, FL
56 Homes

AFFORDABILITY:
- 100% Project-Based
Section 8
- 60% AMI Income-
Restricted, Low-Income
Housing Tax Credits

*Last updated in 2019

VOICES OUT LOUD

Ricky



FITZPATRICK

Everybody was [saying], 'well he's going to be paralyzed, he's not going to be able to walk again, he's not going to be able to do anything.'

Ricky Fitzpatrick was raised in Miami, Florida. After finishing high school in 1978, he joined the military. After his service ended in 1982, he continued to serve in the reserves for four more

years, moving between Pennsylvania where he had some family, and Miami where he decided to settle down. After leaving the reserves, Ricky worked for the Florida East Coast Railway Company. At the time, Ricky was living in Miami Gardens, a market-rate neighborhood in Miami-Dade County. Ricky shares he was aware of the high crime rates and didn't want to stay there much longer, but it wasn't until he got shot in a drive-by shooting that he realized he had to leave immediately. Unfortunately, Ricky suffered extensive injuries from the gunshot and was unable to return to work.

He moved back with his mom while trying to get back on his feet. He was determined to continue to live a normal, independent life despite his friends and family worrying whether he would be paralyzed for life. Once Ricky explained his situation to his friends in the military, they were able to connect him to Harvard House Apartments, an affordable community in North Miami Beach, Florida.

Ricky confesses he had no idea that affordable housing existed before his friends connected him to Harvard House, and he is grateful that they pushed him in the right direction. He's proud that he can pay his entire rent on his own without borrowing money from family or friends.

Ricky has lived at Harvard House since 2013. He shares that joining the military at age 18 gave him the independence to become a man, something he's found hard to give up, always wanting to take care of himself. Today, he explains he's slowly learning to ask for help and depend on his community at Harvard House.

I said, 'Just give me a chance. That's all I wanted, is just an opportunity.'