



# CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT: AT HOME GROUP

614 S. 3rd Street, Minneapolis, MN

At Home Group ([www.athomegroup.org](http://www.athomegroup.org)), housed in the People Serving People building in downtown Minneapolis, works to end unemployment among those who are homeless or precariously housed. They do it by thinking small. A new pair of work shoes. A uniform. A bus pass.

For years, At Home Group's founder served on the board of directors of a Minneapolis homeless shelter. He always wondered what could be done to help the homeless become self-sufficient. Then he heard about a program in another state that was succeeding by just asking individuals what the obstacles were that were keeping them from going back to work. When they removed the obstacles, people went back to work. AHG was formed in 2006 and offered this simple solution with almost a 100% success rate at helping people go back to work. They moved off the streets, out of shelters and become self-supporting, tax-paying citizens.



## GIVING THE THINGS PEOPLE NEED

"Lack of those tools often is the only thing standing in the way of getting someone out of homelessness and into financial independence," said Kathy Olson, AHG's Executive Director. She oversees about 10 volunteers. "Many clients had solid work histories until they lost jobs in this tough economy."



In 2006, AHG helped Ellis complete barber school. In November of 2009, he opened his own shop!

In many cases, "people are desperate to take care of themselves, but for one obstacle. When you ask them what they need to be employed, it's the simple, simple stuff that would cost almost nothing. A \$20 pair of black shoes, or a black skirt and a white top." Others need money to renew a state license or to take a CPR class.



AHG helped J.T. get tools for a mechanic job, in which he couldn't accept the position without tools

One client was given a vacuum, carpet cleaner and business cards to start a home cleaning service. She expressed her thanks for the products, and more. Throughout the process, she said, "I never was made to feel ashamed."

## THE STORY OF BIG

Big lost his job a few months ago. Then, all Big's clothes got stolen. He got a job but had no clothes to wear. AHG bought him the clothes he needed; he was able to keep the job. Later he called AHG and said, "They like my work so much, they have already increased my responsibilities and next check I'll start getting more pay." AHG changed the lives of Big and his 8 year-old daughter. Small sums change lies.

## GETTING INVOLVED

Since donations from the Board of Directors go to cover all administration costs, all other donations go directly to serving local people who want to get back to work. On their website, you can enroll in their Monthly Donation plan. Then, for only \$19 per month you will change 12 people's lives in a year. For this or a one-time donation, go to the AHG website ([www.athomegroup.com](http://www.athomegroup.com)) or contact Kathy Olson at 612-277-0216.



AHG funding helped pay for Tiffany's license so she could go to work the following week

## WORDS FROM A FRIEND



AHG funding helped get welding equipment for DJ so he can complete welding school

