



## Edwin Guzman

### *Housing Success*

The first thing Edwin Guzman wants people to know about him is that when he sets his mind to something, he gets it done.

A former middle linebacker and fullback, Edwin still carries himself with the discipline and determination he learned on the football field decades ago. He approaches life head-on, focused, practical, and unwilling to back down from a challenge.

That mindset would ultimately shape the way he navigated one of the most difficult periods in his life: **experiencing homelessness for the first time at 68 years old after the homeowners he had been renting from informed him that they would be selling their home.**

Beneath Edwin's tough exterior is a deep warmth that becomes impossible to miss when he talks about his family. As he flips through photos of his seven grandchildren, his entire demeanor softens.

Family has always been central to Edwin's life, and in many ways, it shaped the kind of grandfather, and person he wanted to become. Growing up affection was not something openly expressed in his household. Edwin remembers wanting something different for the next generation. Today, he takes enormous pride in being present for his children and grandchildren in ways he did not always experience himself. **Rather than dwelling, Edwin speaks about life with a quiet acceptance: challenges come, and you keep moving forward.**

He proudly shares stories about each of them and the NY Giants jersey they got him for Christmas with "World's Best Grandpa" on the back. *"My grandkids are my babies,"* he said with a smile.

That same mindset carried him through his housing journey. **After entering shelter, Edwin remained focused on one goal: finding a home of his own.**

Every day, even during the coldest winter days, he traveled across the city searching for apartments and following up on new housing leads. While he recognized many of the broader systemic barriers within the shelter system, especially for older adults and those living with mental health challenges, he also spoke passionately about the staff members

who made a difference. **Edwin credits his case manager, Ms. Bradley, and several other Care For the Homeless staff members for helping him stay motivated and treating him with dignity throughout the process.** Their encouragement, combined with Edwin's relentless determination, helped him secure permanent housing.

*"They show that they care. When you see people who show you they care, you feel better."*

Now settled into his new apartment in the Bronx, Edwin is focused on enjoying life, visiting family, and building new memories with the people he loves most. **Looking back on his journey, he remains proud of what**

**he accomplished, and hopeful that others can do the same. "If I can do it, anybody can do it."**

***"Edwin Guzman's journey is a strong example of how focus, consistency, and follow-through can lead to meaningful change in a short period of time. From the very first meeting, with his case manager Ms. Bradley. Edwin made it clear that he was committed to moving forward. He approached every step of the process with determination, ensuring that all required documentation was submitted promptly and that he attended every scheduled meeting on time. His commitment helped keep his progress steady and on track."***

Lesia Bradley, Case Manager

