

Witnesses to Hunger

Tangela

Tangela is nineteen and the mother of an eight month-old daughter. Her mother battled a drug addiction throughout most of Tangela's childhood, and Tangela was bounced around to several different homes while her mother struggled to get clean. Unfortunately, shortly after Tangela's mother became clean and a positive influence in Tangela's life, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and passed away soon after. Despite all of this upset in her life, Tangela was able to graduate high school, and she is now applying to a CNA program through Welfare, in hopes of eventually becoming a nurse. Tangela is currently unemployed and would like to get a job—any job—but can't find any place that will hire her without any experience.



She and Asiya live in a small studio apartment in North Philadelphia. Tangela doesn't like her neighborhood and is frightened by the crime and drug use outside her door. She would like to move to a better neighborhood but for now this apartment is all that Tangela can afford with her cash assistance. Thieves

recently broke into her apartment while she was away, and now Tangela sleeps with a box cutter next to her bed, scared that they will come back while she is home with Asiya.

This is her dad holdin' her up in the air. ...Asiya's dad is 19 too, and he takes good care of her. And his



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dad wasn't really in his life when he was younger so I guess that's maybe why he takes care of her. He wants to be in her life...

Everything is not as good as it looks... It might look like we not struggling on the outside but we really are. And stuff is really hard for us. Everybody be like "You lucky, he take care of his daughter." He does that and I'm happy that he does that, but sometimes there's things that he can't get for her that we need for her.

Policy issues

- Housing
- Employment opportunities
- Education

More photos



I don't want 'Siya to walk in the same footsteps that I did... I want her to be her own person. But I also don't want her to have such a hard life like I did.



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I don't like what's outside my house... the bars make me feel like I'm just caged in sometimes... The landlord asked me did I wanna take 'em off. But I don't wanna take 'em off. We just got robbed... Like you sometimes feel like you in jail inside your own home. It's like a prisoner in my own home.

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