

Read by: Diane Carlson, Pacific Science Center

We were homeless for 14 months. What nobody told me is how long it takes to recover from homelessness. Nobody told me how long it takes to stop feeling vulnerable and on the edge of a precipice ready to fall back in. Even more surprising to me was the financial strain that it has caused.

I'm struggling with words as I write this, because that \$19 was so much money last year. But we did it because we knew our kids needed it. And they LOVED it. We took them to the Pacific Science Center and unleashed them. They learned about biology, and physics. They made LEGO boats to be moved by wind. They learned about bubbles and how to make good ones. My son's favorite thing is the water wheel outside, and the water cannons. My daughter loves the nutrition area. My partner and I love that they love to learn. We take my daughter's friends with us when we can. To help make sure that more kids get exposure to science. It's a small thing that we can sometimes do.

Having this membership to Pacific Science Center was instrumental to helping our children have a more normal life, while we were recovering from homelessness. It has enriched our lives beyond measure.

This year, however, we will be able to buy a regularly priced membership to the Pacific Science Center. My husband and I are both working now. I recently got a job after battling through some mental health issues. It's as of this month we're no longer considered low income.

We've always taken advantage of free things to do: walking around festivals, going to libraries, parks and splash pads. But accessing the Arts has always been just a dream. I want it to be a reality for more families. For more people.

Katherine Mesick
All Access Family
Member
Pacific Science Center

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