

Resident Profile Series: Shari Stratton

Arroyo Village resident Shari Stratton loves playing with her mini-Golden Doodle, Kobe James. She got him in 2020, naming him after Kobe Bryant and LeBron James. She says there is significance behind that. “The worst thing that happened to me last year was Kobe Bryant dying and the best was getting my dog. It was my way to honor [Bryant].”

Shari came to Rocky Mountain Communities’ newest property in 2019, shortly after it opened. After leaving a domestic violence situation, she stayed with various friends and worked at the Rose Aodom Center. While there, she was referred to the Delores Project at Arroyo Village, to find shelter. She says the process of applying and screening went quicker than she anticipated.

“I got a call back right away and had the application back to them in 12 minutes,” she explains.

She initially applied for shelter but got an apartment, which meant everything to her. “I moved in with no furniture. Nothing. The Delores Project gave me sheets and a towel. For a while, I was sleeping on the floor, but it was MY floor,” she says proudly.

Shari says Arroyo Village has been a place for her to heal, for a variety of reasons. Not currently working, she’s at home most of the time. Apartment living can be loud, but Shari, who suffers from PTSD, says that hasn’t been a problem for her.

“The apartments are really soundproof and it’s a secure, safe place to live,” she explains.

In addition to playing with Kobe James, she passes time by participating in an online book club and Bingo. She says when in-person gatherings are allowed again for residents, she hopes career support and financial literacy programs will be offered. Meanwhile, she’ll continue to heal and thrive in the apartment that has helped her get settled and stay stable.