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Healthy and Home for the Holidays

When Joanne Kroger's 19 year-old son, John, was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor, Ms. Kroger searched for the best medical care possible. "I'd risk anything for him to be well" she said. Despite being disabled by her own severe arthritis and having very little income, Ms. Kroger arranged for John to be seen at the UCLA Medical Center, where the tumor was successfully removed. But the tumor had impacted John's ability to walk: he needed daily physical therapy. The doctors prescribed a special diet for Larry and also radiation to prevent the tumor from recurring. While Medi-Cal paid for his therapy, it did not pay for John's special diet or the daily taxi fare to and from UCLA. Over time, John improved, but the added costs simply overwhelmed Ms. Kroger. With just \$1690 a month in income, Ms. Kroger fell behind on her rent. She and her son live in a subsidized Section 8 apartment. If they were evicted, they would likely end up homeless. Ms. Kroger worked hard to catch up on the rent. But in October, her landlord served her with a three-day notice to pay the remaining amount that she owed, or be evicted.

Having no family or friends to turn to for help, Ms. Kroger came to ICLC for help. Staff from our Homelessness Prevention Program paid the balance of her unpaid rent. In addition, we connected Ms. Kroger to ACCESS transportation, which provides no-cost transportation services to people with disabilities. Now Ms. Kroger and John travel to and from UCLA for appointments at no cost. As of early December, John's cancer is in remission. Ms. Kroger and John are thrilled to celebrate the holidays together -- healthy and in their home.