

Portraits of Ricochet

May 1st, 2025



"I'm not a career homeless person."

CARL AUGER – 55 years old

Getting Back Up, Step by Step

A Promising Start

Carl Auger, 55, has always valued a stable life rooted in work and community. The peace of his home was important to him, as was his commitment to others.

His hardworking nature first expressed itself through his passion for physical training, leading to a career of over twenty years as a personal trainer. Devoted to helping others reach their fitness goals, he once dreamed of opening his own gym.

It wasn't until 2009 that life led him to the construction sector, a change he embraced with a newfound enthusiasm for manual work. "It was perfect because I love working with my hands. I learned how to do electrical work, plumbing..."

Job Loss, Housing Loss and Homelessness

After twelve years in construction, a knee injury forced Carl to leave his job, marking the beginning of a difficult period. His situation worsened due to a complicated relationship with a partner struggling with addiction, which led to the loss of his car and, eventually, his apartment in October 2023 — a real breaking point for him.

"The landlord asked me to choose between my girlfriend at the time and the apartment. I chose her. So, I lost my home," Carl recalls, marking the start of his experience with homelessness.

A Fragile New Start

Throughout these challenges, Carl's resilience helped him stay afloat. He found a new job far from his previous environment, allowing him to distance himself from his toxic relationship and end it.



However, this stability was short-lived, as the job ended abruptly after six months. Once again unemployed and temporarily staying with a friend, Carl felt like he had lost everything all over again. Yet, he remained determined to take back control of his life.

A Fragile Social Net and Ricochet

Already isolated by distance and complicated relationships, Carl had a fragile social network — a situation that remains today.

"My mother isn't happy about the situation. She lives far away and has her own struggles. It takes her an hour to come see me. I also have a sister who lives far away. We have a good relationship. Besides them, I have a daughter... I'd say our relationship isn't the best, but it's okay. Other than that, I don't have many friends, but at least they're loyal."

It was in this vulnerable context that a former colleague told him about Ricochet.

Looking for a place to stay, Carl was immediately struck by the cleanliness of the facility, a sharp contrast to a previous negative experience. "I've always liked Ricochet because it's clean," he confides.

A Calmer Daily Life

At Ricochet, Carl found more than just a place to stay. He highlights the warm welcome and respect he receives. "I really like Ricochet because the staff are very kind and helpful. The food is excellent. If I'm still hungry, I can always have more."

He appreciates the peaceful atmosphere and does his part to maintain it. "I'm grateful for what's done for me here, so I treat the place like it's my home."

Looking Ahead

Carl wants to remind people of something important: "Not all homeless people are bad people; they're people too."

His experience at Ricochet has been shaped by friendships and the support of psychosocial workers. With optimism, Carl looks to the future:

"Going back to work, living a normal life again, having my own place. I'm not a career homeless person."

He describes homelessness as "not fun, disappointing for yourself and your family."

Toward Rebuilding

Carl's journey is a powerful testament of resilience towards hardship. His story highlights how complex the path to homelessness can be, but more importantly, it shows the determination of a man committed to getting back up, step by step, to rebuild his stability.

