



Alistair McNab

Scottish Fire & Rescue

“Last Christmas I was living in a shed. But this Christmas I have a home for my kids to visit me in. And it's all thanks to The Fire Fighters Charity.”



Alistair McNab is looking forward to a very different Christmas to last year. The Scottish firefighter will be enjoying his first in his new home, thanks to the Charity's Welfare Services team supporting him when a change of circumstance led to him being homeless.

Having split up with his partner and been off work sick with stress, his finances had depleted, so he decided to move into his mum's shed. "It was quite snug, and to begin with, felt nice. But then you'd spend more time alone and think, I'm 48, living a mum's shed, this is where your life is. And then winter came, and it was cold and damp. My kids didn't want to come and visit me there, so I wasn't seeing much of them, and I just felt worse and worse."

Alistair was told about the Charity's Welfare Services Team and he got in contact: "They explained because of my essential worker role in the fire service I could apply for council housing. They helped me with the application, and a month later, I got the flat. At the same time, they told me they would give me vouchers to help furnish it, because I barely had any belongings. I just couldn't believe it. I'd never had a clue the Charity could help people like this."

Alistair has managed to turn his flat into a home, and is now regularly visited by his daughters and grandson.

"I was worried about taking money from the Charity, because I didn't want to be seen as some kind of sponger, and I struggled to accept that's just what it's there for," he says. "I wanted to share my story to show that I needed help, because other people might as well. The Charity has helped me out amazingly, and my mood is so much better than it was. This Christmas is so different to the last. I never thought I'd get back to this position. I'm back to full duties, and I have a home to call my own. It makes such a difference being able to look round and say, this is mine."

www.firefighterscharity.org.uk/alistair-mcnab

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