

THE KEPP FAMILY'S STORY

The Kepp family came to the attention of The Family Center: Parent Child Center at Northwestern Counseling and Support Services by way of the Department of Children and Families - Family Services division. The mother, Kathleen and father, Doug had a long history of DCF involvement stemming back to when they were young children. Both parents, having adverse childhood experiences, and DCF involvement with their own children were reluctant to seek outside supports and services. The family was living in harmful household conditions far from concrete and social supports. The family was isolated, living in unsafe housing, and were not able to make ends meet. Though reluctant, they were connected to the Parent Child Center for Support.

The Family Support Specialist helped the family to set goals - accessing community resources, increasing parenting supports, and increasing knowledge of child development. This Parent Child Center was able to help the family move to a safer house that was in closer proximity to family supports. Because of this, Kathleen was able to find steady employment. The family started to develop trust with the Parent Child Center allowing for the other family members to become more open to accessing services. Doug was able to develop a rapport with the PCC staff and began to work on his own personal goals. He enrolled in a program that allowed him to work toward regaining the license he had lost. Once he became a licensed driver he sought out concrete funds through the Strengthening Families program which assisted the family in buying a vehicle that was safe for transporting their two children and helped the mother more easily get to her new place of employment

The Family Support Specialist helped the family in developing the skills and knowledge to recognize and seek out safe social supports. The family was able to sever ties with many of the individuals who had a negative influence on their lives and they were able to reconnect with positive supports. The family continued to work on their budget and recognized their current house was not financially sustainable and moved in with the maternal grandmother. The Family Support Specialist continued to work with the family on establishing daily routines and proper upkeep of a home. The family was able to feel secure in their housing for the first time in their lives. Susan, the youngest child, was continuing to have her development monitored and just before her second birthday a referral was put in for Early Intervention services. A Developmental Educator began working with the family on increasing knowledge of child development. Susan began to show movement towards her goals and soon after the family experienced a successful DCF case closure.

Because of the support the family received from the Parent Child Center the family began to thrive. The father was able to, for the first time in his life, secure employment and was able to contribute to his oldest child's child support. At the time the family graduated from the Strengthening Families program they were living in sustainable housing, had stable childcare, had a reliable vehicle, had steady income, and had increased their knowledge of community supports and how to advocate for themselves. The family continues to attend every community event hosted by the Parent Child Center to show their appreciation for the work of everyone who helped to support them and help them grow and thrive.

PARENT CHILD CENTERS = RESULTS

The mission of the Vermont Parent Child Center Network is to provide children, youth and families with strength based, holistic and collaborative services across Vermont with a focus on early childhood education and prevention services. The Network provides leadership, support and advocacy on behalf of its membership and in collaboration with key partners to achieve the best outcomes for families.



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

The services the Kepp family received relate directly to outcomes that drive our decision making as a state under Act 186. *The Kepp's story shows how supporting Vermont's Parent Child Centers moves us closer to achieving at least five of the eight quality of life outcomes we have identified as essential to our state and local communities.*

The Family Center helped the Kepps support Susan to meet her developmental milestones

- Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported.
- Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential including:
 - Pregnant women and young children thrive
 - Youths successfully transition to adulthood

The Family Center helped the Kepps secure affordable housing

- Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported.
- Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential including:
 - Pregnant women and young children thrive
 - Youths successfully transition to adulthood

The Family Center helped Doug secure his license and transportation so that he could get himself and his wife to work and his children to school

- Vermont has a prosperous economy
- Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported
- Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential including:
 - Pregnant women and young children thrive
 - Youths successfully transition to adulthood

The Family Center helped Kathleen secure employment

- Vermont has a prosperous economy
- Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported
- Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential including:
 - Pregnant women and young children thrive
 - Youths successfully transition to adulthood

The Family Center helped the family find childcare for their two children so Kathleen and Doug could continue to work

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The support The Kepp family received positively impacts 10 indicators tracked by the State of Vermont to measure positive population outcomes.

1. Percent or rate per 1,000 jobs of nonpublic sector employment
2. Rate of resident unemployment per 1,000 residents
3. Percent of high school grads entering postsecondary education, work, or training
4. Percent of completion of postsecondary education
5. Number of persons who are homeless (adults and children)
6. Percent of residents living in affordable housing
7. Percent of adults age 18-64 with health insurance
8. Percent of children age 17 and younger with health insurance
9. Rate of children and youth in out-of-home care per 1,000 children and youth
10. Percent of children receiving child care subsidy attending high quality early childhood programs

PCC CORE SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE KEPPS

Concrete Supports

- Family Education
- Case Management
- Strengthening Families Program
- Housing and transitional planning support
- Classes focused in parenting, child development, nutrition, health and wellness, life skills, job readiness, money management, positive social connections

Parenting Support and Education

Family Educator who provides

- Home visitation
- Parenting and Child Development Classes
- Job Skills Development
- Community Resource Connections
- Access to Childcare

Early Childhood Services

- Referral and Enrollment in Local Childcare
- Child Care & Adult Care Food Program Providing Breakfast, Lunch, and Afternoon Snack Daily

Community Playgroups

- Weekly Facilitated Playgroups in community spaces for parents and children

PCC Return on Investment:

Avoided: 2 children in DCF custody = \$16,260
Avoided: Annual cost of Reach Up: \$8,268
ACEs Intervention Savings
High Quality Childcare

Related language from the PCC Master Grant: (Outcomes)

C. iii. Parent Child Centers provide eight core services which contribute to Vermont population-level quality of life indicators identified in 3 V.S.A. § 2311 (b) (5) Vermont families are safe, nurturing, stable and supported. (6) Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential. (A) Pregnant women and young people thrive. (B) Children are ready for school. (C) Children succeed in school.