



# Gina's Story

## Parent Child Centers are the Answer

### GINA'S STORY

I grew up in a one parent household with an older sister who is mentally disabled. My parents divorced when I was young because my father, who spent most of my childhood in and out of jail, was physically and mentally abusive to my mother. Having only gone to school up until eighth grade, my mother struggled to find and maintain employment. My sister dropped out in ninth grade and while I managed to graduate, it was due to more luck than any effort on my part.

I began drinking around age thirteen and by age sixteen had moved out of my mother's house to live with friends. I was in and out of trouble and ended up having my first daughter a month before I turned twenty.

By 2007 I met my now fiancé of ten years and by 2009 our family had grown from three to five. When my fiancé became severely ill and could no longer work we relied on state benefits and I grew into a deep depression. I never left my house so I received sanctions for not complying with my work requirement and never went to my doctors or any other appointments. I only worked seasonally. At Spates the Florist for 6-8 weeks in the winter, and for my fiancé's vending business a couple months in the summer.

In September of 2016, I believe, I met with our new case manager for reach up. Her name is Jen Gibney. She is a great person who made me feel like I wasn't beneath her. She encouraged me to move forward with my life and I started my work requirement at the Parent Child Center thrift store here in Newport.

Here I met Merry Hamel, Tori Maxwell and Heather Champagne. In November came time for the annual Toy Drive. Merry trusted me to work on getting it set up with minimal supervision, which boosted my confidence. A volunteer is usually supervised at all times so this showed trust and faith in me, which meant a lot. Unfortunately my call back to Spates came and I left.

By February I was back at the thrift store. I was only there a couple days when Merry asked me if I would mind helping at the reception desk at NEKCA. I was extremely nervous and afraid I would mess things up. However, I went over anyway. From that day on I spent six months working as a volunteer at the reception desk with April Mead. I stayed in close contact with Heather, who brought me applications for jobs she thought I would be interested in.

In August a position at NEKCA opened up. Both Tammy Lamoureux, the Associate Director and Outreach Coordinator, and Heather brought me told me about the job opening. I was interested but felt I was under qualified and was not going to apply however, with much encouragement from NEKCA staff and Heather, I sent up my resume to H.R. I went to the interview, terrified, and was hired in fifteen minutes for the twenty hours a week position. I started on August 29th and after an hour there, Tammy pulled me aside and said they would like me to change to forty hours a week.

Today is October fourth. I now work at NEKCA in Newport as a recruitment and program specialist for the Jobs for Independence pilot program. I work closely with the Department of Labor, Voc. Rehab and Economic Services, helping people with barriers find employment. My face is on fliers all over Orleans County and I attend many events on NEKCA's behalf, meet with clients and help with the food shelf.

I can say with all honesty that that without the PCC staff, Jen Gibney, NEKCA staff and all of the wonderful programs PCC provides, that I would not be where I am today. I would not have had the courage to reach for the things I want. I will forever be grateful to all those who played a part in my success.

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

### NECKA provided Gina with job training

Vermont has a prosperous economy  
Vermonters are healthy  
Vermont's communities are safe and supportive  
Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported  
Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential, including;  
Youths successfully transition to adulthood

### NECKA found Gina a full time job

Vermont has a prosperous economy  
Vermonters are healthy  
Vermont's communities are safe and supportive  
Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported  
Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential, including;  
Youths successfully transition to adulthood

### NECKA provided Gina with stress management and parenting classes

Vermonters are healthy  
Vermont's communities are safe and supportive  
Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported  
Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential, including;  
Children are ready for school  
Children succeed in school  
Youths choose healthy behaviors  
Youths successfully transition to adulthood

### The support Gina received positively impacts 5 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. Median household income
3. Rate of resident unemployment per 1,000 residents
4. Percent of children ready for school in all five domains of healthy development
5. Percent of high school graduates entering postsecondary education, work, or training



### PCC CORE SERVICES PROVIDED TO GINA

#### Worksite and Job Coach

Help with resume and employment searches. We provided leads to employment and also hands on work experience. Gina worked in our Thrift stores and as our receptionist. She also helped in our food shelves.

#### Education and Support

Gina also participated in our stress management classes and parenting classes.

### ROI Statistics

ACEs (Integrating ACE-Informed Practice into the Blueprint for Health)

ACEs Intervention Savings= \$210,000 (2010 dollars): Individuals with a higher number of ACEs are more likely to smoke, abuse alcohol and illicit substances, be obese, be physically inactive, and exhibit high-risk sexual behaviors. In addition to profound health effects, child abuse and neglect is also associated: including \$33,000 in childhood health care costs, \$11,000 in adult medical costs, \$144,000 in productivity losses, \$8,000 in child welfare costs, \$7,000 in criminal justice costs, and \$8,000 in special education costs.

RU = \$8,268 (DCF – Economic Services)

The overall savings having someone move off RU is the Family grant of \$7,800 and \$468 for support services = \$8,268.

### 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.