



Amanda's Story

Parent Child Centers are the Answer

AMANDA'S STORY

As far back as I can remember it was my job to take care of myself and those around me. I learned early that if you wanted something you had to work for it. I learned many other life lessons, such as, no one was going to keep me safe, once the drinking started become invisible but stay alert to break up any fights. Most importantly, make sure you don't get any marks in places that you can't cover because home business is not to be shared. I had had no idea that this was not the life my peers had. My mom and I would flee the violence every so often but we would always go back. I lived for my mom, if I didn't take care of her she might die of one cause or another. I will spare the gruesome details of memories I wish would fade so I could rest at night as those can be more painful than the acts which place them there. Truly, they don't matter, what matters is what you do with the life you've been given. I went into foster care when I was 14. I then fell victim to sexual abuse from an adult from outside of the home and I got pregnant. I finished high school at a parent child center.

I ended up homeless at 17, after my 6th foster care placement. I was relocated to a town I didn't know living in a hotel with my toddler and slated to start college in a few weeks. I went to the local parent child center where I was able to access the services and support I needed. I went on Reach Up and received child care subsidy. I got an apartment two weeks into my freshman year. I struggled hard.

I graduated top of my class with a bachelor's degree. I became the director of the transitional living program at Rutland County Parent Child Center. I'm now a consultant providing support and training to staff at RCPCC to enable them to work more effectively with teen parents to achieve the best outcomes possible. I don't have a traditional family and didn't when I was a teen. I do have an entire agency of people that I know I can count on to lend an ear and a hand if life gets too heavy.

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.

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.



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

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

The Parent Child Center helped Amanda to stay in school.

Vermont has a prosperous economy

Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential

Amanda learned parenting skills and became a leader in her community.

Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported

Vermont's communities are safe and supportive

The Parent Child Center helped Amanda to find housing

Vermonters are healthy

Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported

Vermont's communities are safe and supportive

The Parent Child Center helped Amanda identify her career goal and help her find a path to achieving it.

Vermont has a prosperous economy

Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential

Amanda completed her bachelor's degree in criminal justice with a minor in psychology.

Vermont has a prosperous economy

Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential

Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported

The support Amanda received directly impacts 7 indicators tracked by AHS to measure positive population outcomes.

1. Rate of children and youth in out of home care per 1,000 children and youth; Rate of school attendance per 1,000 children;
2. Percent of children receiving child care subsidy attending quality early childhood programs.
3. Rate of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children;
4. Percent of children ready for school in all four domains of healthy development
5. Rate of high school graduation per 1,000 high school students
6. Percent of high school seniors with plans for education, vocational training, or employment.
7. High school graduates who graduated with a Regular High School diploma and enrolled in postsecondary education within 16 months after high school graduation.

PCC CORE SERVICES PROVIDED TO AMANDA

Concrete Supports

- Reach Up Case Management and financial support
- Housing and transitional planning support
- Classes focused in mental health, recovery, parenting, child development, nutrition, health and wellness, life skills, job readiness, money management

Parent Support & Education

- Learning Together: a program for pregnant, parenting, or at risk teens and young adults.
- Parenting and Child Development Classes
- Job Skills Development
- Community Resource Connections
- Access to Childcare

Early Childhood Services

- Referral and Enrollment In High Quality

Early Childhood Education

- Nutritious Meals Daily - including a healthy breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack

ROI Statistics

Avoided: Annual cost of Reach Up: \$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.

Avoided: Child in family foster care: \$8,130 (DCF – Family Services)

Avoided: Care of infants born with NAS (neonatal abstinence syndrome): \$40,000+

Avoided: One woman not entering a correctional facility: \$79,642

Wages based on degree (National Center for Education Statistics)

- A person holding a bachelor's degree can earn 66% more, on average, than someone with a high school diploma. \$30,000 (\$15/hr) vs. \$49,880 (\$24.94/hr)

Homeless vs. Housing - \$20,250 (AHS – Housing Director)

- Providing an individual that is homeless shelter for a year costs \$27,594 vs \$7,344 for permanent housing. ROI=\$20,250
- Costs \$6,351 to house a family for 84 days through Economic Services