



# Ashley's Story

## *Parent Child Centers are the Answer*

In 2013, my baby girl Daliah was born. As a new mother raised in poverty, still living in poverty, my biggest concern was making sure my daughter was given every single thing that she needed in order to grow into an intelligent woman. The Family Place offered support that met that need. Kelly, a nurse who made visits to our home once every month, would bring information relevant to my daughter's stage of development, answer questions, share information about resources outside the Family Place, and do developmental milestone checks. Kelly came to visit us for over a year and didn't stop coming until I decided it was no longer needed.

When Daliah's father and I separated, the hardest part was knowing how poor I would be. I was given a case worker through Economic Services and was surprised and relieved to find that it was someone from the Family Place. My new case worker, Megan, gave me the encouragement I needed to do what was right for my daughter and the financial help I needed to make it on my own. I found a job and got accepted into subsidized housing. When my car broke down, Megan was a phone call away to help me problem solve, budget, and help financially. Keeping my car allowed me to keep what I felt was left of my independence.

**I have been building an incredible foundation for a life that will bring me out of poverty and allow my daughter to have the life I imagined for her.** I received a Leadership award at CCV in 2015 and graduated with the honor of being the class commencement speaker. I even made it to the Democratic National Convention this July as a pledged delegate for Bernie Sanders. I hope to find a career doing important work for Vermont's local economy and people. The road out of poverty as a single mother is a long and uphill battle, but I know I will achieve my goals.

### PCC CORE SERVICES PROVIDED TO ASHLEY

#### Home Visiting

Families with young children have access to home-based support. Family goals and interests determine the frequency and content of visits.

#### Concrete Supports

Families have access to financial assistance to maintain transportation or meet other basic needs when crisis hits.

#### Information and Referral

Home visitors, parent educators, reception staff and others help parents find resources available to families in their communities.

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

### The Family Place helped Ashley support Daliah 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 people thrive
  - Youths successfully transition to adulthood

### The Family Place helped Ashley 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 people thrive
  - Youths successfully transition to adulthood

### The Family Place helped Ashley maintain transportation so that she could get herself to school and work.

- 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 people thrive
  - Youths successfully transition to adulthood

### Ashley earned a degree from the Community College of Vermont, has career aspirations and is engaged in her community.

- Vermont has a prosperous economy.
- Vermont's communities are safe and supportive.
- Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential including:
  - Pregnant women and young people thrive
  - Youths successfully transition to adulthood

## The help Ashley received directly impacts three indicators tracked by AHS to measure positive population outcomes.

1. High school graduates who graduated with a Regular High School diploma and enrolled in postsecondary education within 16 months after high school graduation.
2. Students who graduate from an institution of higher education within six academic school years.
3. Children ready for school in all four domains of healthy development.



### 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.

