

Profiles of Hope



The child of an abusive, alcoholic mother, Christine became involved at a young age with an abusive man and began a family. She mustered up the courage to leave her child's father at the age of 21, when her son was a toddler. She moved back in with her mother, only to be told by authorities that her son would be taken away from her if she stayed in the household with her own, violent mother. Now homeless, Christine and her son moved to a shelter where she was referred to Project Self-Sufficiency for help. During that time, Christine worked two jobs to support herself and her son, who was placed in childcare at the Little Sprouts Early Learning Center. She attended parenting classes out of

fear of perpetuating her mother's faulty parenting style. Christine also attended a support group for young parents which allowed her to take part in activities with other women like herself.

After a time, Christine attempted to reconcile with her son's father, eventually giving birth to two more children before leaving him for good. She and her three children moved into a shelter for abused women. Christine recognized that her lack of education had been keeping her from providing a stable environment for her family, so after discussing her goals with her Project Self-Sufficiency case manager, she began to work towards her dream of a career in the field of medicine. Christine achieved her GED through a program at Project Self-Sufficiency and applied to the surgical technology program at the college. She is now employed as a surgical technician at a local hospital.

Over the years, Christine has volunteered for Project Self-Sufficiency in numerous ways, by taking photos at family activities, speaking at fundraising events and donating clothing and other items to the agency. Recently, Christine returned to school to work towards a nursing degree. Her progress was stalled by personal issues, but she hopes to continue someday. In the meantime, she is proud to be an advocate for Project Self-Sufficiency.

"I never believed that I could go to college. Project Self-Sufficiency empowered me to go to college. It changed my life."

Christine Slater

36

3 children

Christine Slater