

Profiles of Hope



Heather Draughon was a teenager when she arrived at Project Self-Sufficiency. Pregnant and concerned about caring for herself and her unborn child, Heather was immediately registered for the agency's home visitation program. She also became an enthusiastic participant in a weekly support group for young parents. Heather faithfully attended the support group where she made new friends and picked up tips on a variety of subjects from the group's guest speakers. During her pregnancy, she learned about proper nutrition and childcare from her home visitor. After her son was born, Heather expanded her participation at Project Self-Sufficiency. She took part in assessment testing and received counseling. After receiving her high school diploma, Heather took advantage of the services available at the Career Center to update her resume and obtain suitable clothing for job interviews.

Now a mother of four children, Heather recently celebrated her tenth anniversary at WillowGlen Academy where she has been promoted to Teacher's Aide. She hopes to pursue a degree in Occupational Therapy at Sussex County Community College. Over the years, Heather has continued to receive assistance from Project Self-Sufficiency, including the Back-to-School Fair, the Season of Hope Toy Shop, and the food pantry. Last year, Heather was chosen to receive a newly-refurbished car from Elite Tire & Automotive.

She credits Project Self-Sufficiency for providing her with positive role models and for giving her guidance when she needed it. "Project Self-Sufficiency is a special place, especially for young men and women who are not prepared to be parents, like I was. Project Self-Sufficiency gave me the support I needed to turn my life around. It gave me the push I needed to be successful."

Heather Draughon
35
4 children

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