



OUT OF THE ASHES CAME HOPE

CLARION

Serving The People Of The New Community Network

Family Service Bureau

Newark New Start Success Story

The goal of the Newark New Start program is to provide supportive services to a mother who recently has become a parent and has not been able to fully prepare (i.e. financially, emotionally, etc.). As with any program, many challenges arise. This is because many people have their own personal challenges, but NNS staff members will help any person regardless of their needs. They also try to lighten the load by hosting activities so that the mothers can let their hair down and remove themselves from the stresses of life just for a moment. NNS staff members host different events to help this happen such as playing games, laughing, dancing and having dinners certain times of the year (i.e. Mother's Day, Christmas, etc.).

Natalie W. is a 32-year-old mother of three children ages 8, 3 and a newborn baby girl. Ms. W. became a part of the Newark New Start program in August. She was referred via one of the local hospitals to assist with her newborn. As with many of the young ladies that are referred to the program, they are reluctant to obtain assistance, insisting that they have everything they need. This is often the initial response of many of our clients and is mainly because of their lack of trust in many social service agencies. Their belief is often that you are more out to get me than to help me. Part of the process has a lot to do with engagement and encouraging them to help change the situation.

After meeting with the new mom, NNS staff members schedule a visit to do a home assessment to verify the needs of the newborn baby. In meeting with Ms. W., it was determined that she had all the essential things needed for her baby, but her supply was slightly dwindling because she was a single mother trying to provide for her family with limited resources. NNS was able to provide her with what she needed for the baby along with her other children because of the generous donations we receive throughout the year as an agency.

After meeting with her, we discovered that there were some unresolved issues that Ms. W. never dealt with that caused her to feel a strong level of hopelessness and depression. She was unemployed and living off public assistance. This often was the cause of her level of stress. NNS staff members told her that while we were assisting with providing for the baby, that she needed to attend to her needs. We encouraged her to seek out counseling, which she started to receive.

Ms. W. has become a person who has a positive outlook on life. Since receiving counseling, NNS staff members have worked on her resume, obtained dress attire and encouraged self-acceptance, just to name a few on this road to success. During the holiday season, she was able to obtain temporary employment through Amazon for the holidays. They offered for her to stay on for a few additional months, which she was considering, until she received a call from the Board of Education to become a Teacher Assistant, which she has always wanted to do because she understands the challenges of dealing with children.

NNS staff members were able to help her get all her paperwork into the Board and she reported that she "had mixed emotions that one chapter was closing while she was excited about another one opening." She shared that she was "sad because her time with the program is almost up." NNS staff members encouraged her and said that she has the tools she needs to succeed.

NNS is proud of her and reminded her of the mission which will always remain the same: "Providing assistance to a brighter tomorrow for mothers and babies."