



Life Saver Ministries
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Dear Life Savers,

As promised, here's the story of one of our graduates.

Hi, my name is Lindsay. I got pregnant when I was 16 years old. I was a junior in high school. When my mother found out, she was furious. She found My Father's House (I am not sure how) and brought me there. Needless to say, I was not happy. It was far away from my school, my home, my friends, and my boyfriend. I was being ripped away from everything I knew.

I was forced to stay there by the Department of Children and Families. I was scared. I saw all the rules they had at My Father's House. It was strict, and there were a bunch of other teenagers there with their children. In the beginning I acted like a hermit. I was quiet. I went to school and then back to the house and into my room to do homework.

Eventually, I started opening up to people, and I developed some great friendships. I adored the children and was always willing to help out the moms. The staff who worked there were always accommodating and willing to talk. They were great people, who just want to help people like me. I followed all of the rules and did whatever I was supposed to, so I would move up in levels and have more free time on the weekend.

My Father's House taught me how to budget. They also had me cook once a week, which was probably the hardest for me, because I do not particularly like many types of foods. We had a chore chart that would rotate weekly. There were classes we had to attend throughout the week that taught us different things.

They encouraged us to go to church on Sunday, but they didn't make us go. Unfortunately, church is not for me, so I would stay in the house and do a quiet activity for a couple hours on Sunday mornings. Each teenager and their child had their own room. They had a great playroom that my son came to love. Being in that house was like being in a large dysfunctional family. We spent all of our time together, and we laughed, and we fought. We played games, and we watched TV together. It was a great connection to have.

I will never forget Christmas at My Father's House. We put up a tree, and people donated presents, and the kids woke up and all had presents under the tree. It is a great thing that people do for My Father's House.

I stayed at My Father's House for one year and four months. I was there for the longest out of all the other people that were in and out. The most important thing I believe My Father's House made us do is either get a job or continue school. You could not just sit around all day feeling sorry for yourself. I finished high school there and started online college classes. They supported everything that I decided to do.

I was a very angry person, and through journaling and talking through my problems, the staff helped me overcome a lot. My Father's House teaches all the responsibilities you will need to know to survive when you move on. It teaches you how to survive as an adult with a child.

I left My Father's House when I turned 18 and aged out of DCF. Since I left, some good things have happened, and some not so good things have happened. The worst thing that happened was that I was in an abusive relationship. I was young and I thought it was alright. It is never alright, and eventually I learned that and moved on.

Two years after I left My Father's House, I got a job as a toddler teacher, where my son was in preschool. After a year, I found another position on Craigslist helping out at a home childcare center. Eventually, the lady who ran the home daycare discussed opening a group childcare center. Luckily, she decided to take me with her. I have worked for her for four years and been a teacher in every classroom. I am currently a pre-k teacher and assistant director. In May/June she is opening a second center that I am going to direct.

About three years ago, I graduated from college with my bachelor's degree in early childhood education. Some people said that I could never finish high school or go to college as a teenage mother, but I did. Last May I bought my own house, as a single parent of two children.

I can tell you that life is not easy, there are obstacles to face every day. Sometimes it is easier to think about quitting, but when you have a child, they become your sole responsibility and focus. You spend your life focusing on them, and it is worth every second.

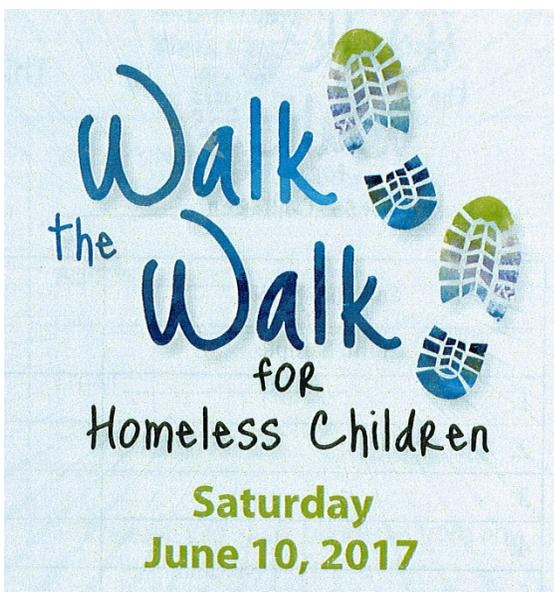
Although it wasn't where I wanted to be, I met some amazing people through My Father's House, and I learned a lot. It really prepared me for real life. New experiences can be scary, and being somewhere that pushes your limits and makes you do things you don't want to do will only better you as a person in the long run.

Lindsay did get the position as director of the new childcare center. She is an awesome young woman and an amazing mother. We couldn't be more proud of her.

Meet Isabelle, the newest arrival at
My Father's House.

Isabelle was born on May 11th at 5:40 AM.
She Weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and was
19 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches tall.

Both mom and baby are doing just fine.



There's still time to join us on the
Walk the Walk for Homeless Children
on June 10th.

Go to www.mfhwalk.org

If you can't walk with us, but would like to help,
you can sponsor me at

www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/KevinCoffey/walk2017

In His service,

Kevin
Kevin Coffey