

Families First Success Story

Delowe Village: mother overcomes substance abuse and anger



Yulonda is the Office Manager at a local agency, and is currently working on a degree in Business Administration.

Name: Yulonda

Crisis Situation: Due to alcohol and substance abuse, Yulonda lost custody of her newborn daughter, Kaci. Having faced years of set backs and degradation, and with her infant child placed in protective custody, Yulonda sought treatment so that she could get help and regain custody of Kaci. Although treatment proved to be difficult, Yulonda successfully completed a treatment program after two attempts. During the 12 months that Yulonda entered and completed treatment at a facility for women with children, she was able to regain custody of her daughter.

Families First Solution: Although Yulonda had been clean and sober for 12 months, there was a risk that she could start using again if the proper support and resources were not available to her. Upon completing the treatment program, Yulonda's DFCS case worker encouraged her to transition to Families First's Delowe Village, a supportive housing program that provides shelter, counseling and access to treatment and training programs. While at Delowe Village, Yulonda received individual counseling sessions that helped her to focus on and cope with anger issues. As a participant in our Life Skills program, Yulonda learned about substance abuse, fear, anger, and how to have healthy relationships with peers and family members. Families First also provided childcare while she performed community service and worked at a local non-profit agency.

Outcome: Yulonda has been clean and drug-free for four years. Being at Delowe Village enabled Yulonda to have permanent custody of her child. It also gave her family a safe home and stability. This stability allowed her to stay clean and attain her goals in life. It has also given her peace of mind. Most importantly, Delowe Village enabled Yulonda to bond more closely with Kaci and her older son Garrett, and form a strong and healthy family relationship. After leaving Delowe Village, Yulonda is attending college part-time for a degree in Business Administration. She is the Office Manager at the same agency she volunteered at, and worked for, while at Delowe Village. Yulonda currently attends a biblical 12 step program.

"I am grateful to Families First; you will always have a place in my heart because of all the support and encouragement you provided. Families First gave me stability, and that allowed me to stay clean and move on in life. Your support helped me to realize that I can make it on my own no matter what. That is why I feel so stable and peaceful today."