

Families First Success Story

Delowe Village: woman conquers abuse and unemployment

Name: Mary

Crisis Situation: Mary faced several obstacles in life including substance abuse, domestic violence and unemployment. Realizing she was no longer in control of her life was, Mary entered a shelter that provided an in-patient drug treatment program. After successfully completing the treatment program, Mary was referred to Families First's Delowe Village Project Grow by the shelter.

Families First Solution: Upon leaving the treatment program, Mary transitioned into Delowe Village, a supportive housing program that provides shelter, counseling and access to treatment and training programs. While at Delowe Village, Mary received group and individual counseling sessions that helped her to open up and talk about issues she was experiencing and trying to resolve. She participated in life-skills classes which helped to re-establish her into society. She was able to learn how to manage her finances and write a resume. She was also required to perform community service, and volunteered to clean neighborhood parks and assist in the Campfire Girls program. Mary gained employment as an Administrative Assistant for a substance abuse program. Because of the flexibility built into the Delowe Village program, Families First was able to adjust Mary's plan when necessary to ensure she would improve and succeed with her goals.

Outcome: After a period of time at Delowe Village, Mary was ready to move forward with her life. She decided to go back to school and take computer classes. She graduated at the top of her class and received the highest score on the exit exam. While searching for a permanent job, Families First was there to assist by giving Mary use of a computer and helping with her job search. After several months, Mary was hired by an agency as a Program Assistant, and has been promoted twice in three years. She is currently an Office Manager and looks forward to what the future holds in store for her.

"If I didn't go through the Delowe program, I do not know where I'd be today. I used the tools that Families First gave me, and was able to find independence, self-respect, pride and dignity. These all have helped me to become more stable, accountable and responsible for whatever I choose to do with my life."