

Families First Success Story

Delowe Village: mother receives structure and gains self-sufficiency



Former Delowe Village resident, Jennifer has been clean for six years, attends college and provides a stable, loving home for her children.

Name: Jennifer

Crisis Situation: Six years ago Jennifer separated from her partner, leaving her to care for three young children while dealing with substance abuse and no place to call home. Jennifer felt alone and isolated from the rest of her family who lived in another state. Her situation seemed hopeless. However, Jennifer gained the strength to check herself into a shelter that offered treatment. Upon successfully completing the program, Jennifer needed to find a place to live that would provide structure and support for her children and herself.

Families First Solution: Knowing that a structured environment was key to her continued sobriety, Jennifer determined that Delowe Village -- a supportive housing program for families that provides shelter, counseling and access to treatment and training programs -- was the best solution for she and her three children. During her time at Delowe Village, Jennifer became motivated to become independent and take responsibility for the choices she made in life. The individual and group counseling sessions empowered Jennifer to deal with issues from her past, and helped her to cope in a healthy manner. Jennifer also worked part-time while attending college to work on a degree in Business. Families First provided other support services including rent assistance and child care. Jennifer and her children were also sponsored through our holiday Adopt A Family program, which allowed them to celebrate the holidays as a family.

Outcome: Jennifer has been clean for six years. The structure she received at Delowe Village has helped Jennifer to continue this approach after leaving Delowe Village. She has an apartment in a nice community with a wonderful school system and outreach programs. Her children have adjusted well to their new life. Although Jennifer is struggling to make ends meet, she is happy to be on her own and self-sufficient. She is excited that she'll be graduating from college soon, and is proud that her oldest daughter will also graduate from high school and enter college this year.

“It was a struggle during my time at Delowe, but I learned to be responsible and accept me for who I was. The most important lesson Families First taught me was to be okay with myself. This in turn, helped my children to feel the same way about themselves. As difficult as it may get from time to time, I know that I’ll always do what is best for my kids and myself.”