

PROVIDENCE HOUSE

Creating Communities, Transforming Lives



November 29, 2011

Dear Friends:

When Ms. W arrived at Providence House she was just 20 years old with a four-year old daughter Rashell and six months pregnant with her second child. She was homeless for just one week, the first time this ever happened in her life, and she was naturally scared and apprehensive about what the future held in store for her and her children. The children especially were her main worry—Ms. W was determined to make sure they got the start in life they deserved.

Immediately upon settling in at Providence House, Ms. W met with our staff Case Manager to begin developing an Independent Living Plan—to map out goals and strategies for her to obtain job training, get employment, find her own apartment and ensure that her children are enrolled in day care. The Case Manager made many helpful suggestions as Ms. W pondered the actions she had to take to realize her goals. Although this was a chaotic time in her life to confront so many things, especially being pregnant, it was also a life-affirming time as Ms. W realized that she had a network of support at Providence House to see her through her difficult circumstance.

For example, in addition to intensive case management support, Ms. W and her children received periodic visits during and after her pregnancy from the Nurse Case Manager who is a certified RN on the Providence House staff. The Nurse visits each of our seven congregate residences regularly, checking in on the women who have existing health problems or who are pregnant; teaching residents about the importance of taking control of their health by practicing preventive health measures; and making sure that all the children are up to date with their immunizations and medical check-ups. Without a doubt, the Nurse is a reassuring presence to our residents.



Ms. W with her children Rashell and Jahmai

While at Providence House Ms. W gave birth to a beautiful and healthy baby boy Jahmai. Our staff made sure she got safely to the hospital and when she was released she came back to Providence House. As soon as she recovered, Ms. W continued to work on her program goals. She enrolled Rashell and Jahmai in the Providence House day care center while she enrolled herself at the Anne Blue Health Care Agency to work towards becoming a home health aide.

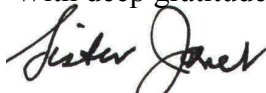
Ms. W graduated the program in March 2011 and is now a fully certified and employed home health aide. She continues to work with our Housing Specialist who is helping her to search for an affordable, safe and sanitary apartment with a nearby school. With the government elimination of the Advantage Program, which provided rent subsidies to low-income families looking for a place of their own, Ms. W is finding it exceedingly hard to find an affordable apartment. But she has not given up hope—Providence House always pulled through for her and she is confident our Housing Specialist will locate the right place for her and Rashell and Jahmai.

The story of Ms. W is the story of so many women and children served by Providence House. But, the blessings Ms. W has received since coming to Providence House can only be made possible because of the generosity of our donors, our friends like you, who support the programs and services we provide to all families. Through your help, Providence House is able to go the extra mile to make sure that families like Ms. W receive the case management and other support services they need. Services such as provided by our in-house Nurse; the use of our Child Care Center where they can be confident their children will be well taken care of; residences that are modeled as homes and not as shelters; and, most importantly, have daily access to case workers who assist them in identifying goals and working towards their successful completion.

May I ask for your help for families like Ms. W? Your gift will help so many women and children at Providence House. I ask for your special generosity at this time when funding is tighter than ever due to the adverse economy, but know that whatever you are able to give is received with gratitude.

Please accept my prayerful blessing for a Very Merry Christmas and a hope-filled New Year.

With deep gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sister Janet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sister Janet