

Highlighting Direct Services Grantees

In the course of preparing for the 2010 Annual Signature Event, CTF solicited success stories from programs throughout Michigan that are supported with CTF Direct Services grants. It was clear from the stories submitted that there are truly meaningful differences being made for children and families. As follow up, CTF will showcase a Direct Services funded program in our News Brief each month.

Berrien County Health Department's Nurse-Family Partnership Program

Anna's Story

Getting pregnant was a life changing moment for this young high school junior. Anna* was unsure of what to do and the father of the baby exited her life when he found out she was pregnant. Anna, having been diagnosed with ADD and having to attend some special education classes, worried about having all the skills she would need to take care of a baby plus still reach her goal of graduating high school.



At 14 weeks pregnant, she decided to join the Nurse-Family Partnership program to gain the necessary parenting skills she needed. Anna worked hard at having a healthy pregnancy and enjoyed learning about how she could give her baby the best start in life. Anna went on to have a healthy baby girl and now is a senior in high school. She is on target to graduate and is looking forward to receiving her diploma while her little girl watches from the stands.

Anna loves taking pictures of her little girl and proudly displays a homemade photo album of her pictures. After graduation this mom is interested in doing something in the childcare field.

*Name has been changed.



Facts about the Berrien County Health Department's Nurse-Family Partnership Program:

- Serves 100 first-time mothers in Berrien County.
- Provides weekly or biweekly nursing home visits with first-time moms beginning in pregnancy and continues until the baby turns 2 years old.
- A nurse home visitor works with mom on a healthy pregnancy outcome, her educational goals and economic self sufficiency, family planning, as well as the health of the infant, immunizations, and the growth & development of the child.
- All work with the client is done in her home setting.
- The importance of reading to a young child is encouraged through a "beginning library" book component of the program.

This story was originally published in the CTF Grantee Success Stories booklet and may be found at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/ctf/Program_booklet_321657_7.pdf.