



Second Chances

When Karen was referred to the Family Success Program she had a large amount of debt and was slated for eviction due to her inability to pay rent.

Without a high school diploma, Karen was working as a waitress. She received a small rent subsidy and MFIP for herself and her son, but money was increasingly tight.

Karen confessed to the Family Success Coordinator that she recently discovered she was pregnant. She was desperate for help. She had an upcoming court date in Steele County for cashing an \$18,000 fraudulent check five years ago. Scared and unsure of what to do, Karen asked the Family Success Coordinator to accompany her to Steele County for her court appearance. Although Karen had previously served 58 days for fraudulent check writing in Ramsey and Washington counties, the Steele County Prosecutor was adamant Karen serve jail time in Steele County. Testifying on her behalf, the Family Success Coordinator explained that it would be a huge disservice to Karen to re-incarcerate her. Not only would her young son and unborn child be placed in foster care, but Karen was just beginning to get her life back together with the help of the Family Success Program. After deliberating, the judge ruled that since Karen was actively working on getting her life back together, and the Family Success Program was committed to her success, he would waive jail time and place her on probation.

Since the court date, Karen has turned her life around! She has followed her probation guidelines, had continuous clean drug tests, received regular prenatal care, successfully enrolled her son in kindergarten, completed her GED, and completed her first semester at Century College. Karen has also become her own financial manager. Using her additional educational grant money, Karen budgeted appropriately for necessary expenses between ending her employment and beginning college. She also purchased a mini-van and insurance in her own name, and took it upon herself to locate resources to assist her and her growing family. Karen even pays forward on her rent when she has extra money.

Karen's success can be directly attributed to her hard work and dedication, but also the support and encouragement of the Family Success Program.

To find out how the Family Success Program can benefit your rental property contact:

Perry Lofquist, MSM
Executive Director
(651) 633-7766
perry@opportunityneighborhood.org

Kevin O. Thomas, MSW
Program Manager
(651) 226-1472
kevin@opportunityneighborhood.org

Family Success Program is a service of Opportunity Neighborhood
www.opportunityneighborhood.org

