

Keeping Families Together



Family Snapshot: Jose, Evelyn & Destiny

Jose remembers the birth of his daughter, Destiny, as one of the happiest days of his life. Yet, it also was one of the saddest.

He and his wife, Evelyn, were living in a homeless shelter when their baby was born and their challenges did not stop there.

Because of an open child welfare case involving Evelyn's daughter from a previous relationship, they were not allowed to take Destiny home from the hospital. Child welfare officials wanted to put the newborn in foster care—immediately.

Jose went to court the next day, fought hard and won sole guardianship of Destiny. For now, at least, he was a single father.

He lived with his baby daughter at the family shelter and thought about how to give her a better future. He took parenting classes and continued treatments for his heroin addiction.

Then, through the homeless shelter, he made contact with Diversity Works, which operates supportive housing for families. They enrolled Jose in Keeping Families Together, and he and Destiny moved into a new apartment. That was more than two years ago.

“This is way different than the shelter,” Jose says. When they moved in, Keeping Families Together also provided furniture for their apartment. Destiny has her own bedroom and toys.

Jose's caseworker routinely helps him manage paperwork from various agencies that interact with him and his daughter.

“They help you out here,” Jose says.

After Evelyn's child welfare case was closed, she was allowed to move in with her husband and daughter. Now, they all live together in the cozy apartment that has become their first home as a family.

“Soy muy contenta,” says Evelyn. (“I'm very happy.”)

