

Keeping Families Together

Guiding Principles: Housing stability is a precursor to the preservation, stability and well-being of families and children

At just 24, Erin had already developed the sage wisdom that comes with adversity. Erin's daughter is a spunky five year old with a face full of expressions, while her son is an inquisitive three year old determined to figure out how things work. At her initial interview seeking supportive housing, Erin cited her children as her sole motivation in her tireless efforts to improve her family's life.

Erin experienced a long period of homelessness and uncertainty, with little support from family or friends. Her children were acutely aware of the situation and reacted to the trauma of homelessness in different ways. Her son was unable to cope with the shelter environment, while her daughter became attached saying, "at least [in the shelter] we have a home."

Once accepted into the program, Erin jumped into action and secured more permanent housing for her family in the "It's all About the Kids" scattered site supportive housing.

Erin also identified a number of personal goals with her case manager. She hadn't completed her GED, was unemployed and struggled with paying her bills.

Her case manager assisted by securing a desktop computer and internet access for Erin. Once online, Erin searched for education resources and opportunities for herself and her children, as well as tools for how to better budget her money. She quickly connected with Adult Basic Education to study for her GED test and worked with her Employment Counselor to secure an internship.

Understanding Erin's hopes, barriers and skills made a big impact on the development of her own tools for self-advocacy and self-worth. Erin's determination has started to pay off; she now has her GED! As a resident of supportive housing, Erin continues to work towards the preservation and well-being of her family by pursuing stability and self-sufficiency.

