

My name is Alexa Dalpe and I have been a Case Manager with The Connection Inc's Supportive Housing for Families Program since July of 2008. In my time thus far, I have had the pleasure of working with some of the strongest, most hardworking individuals I have ever met. Whether it's working toward reunification, recovery, mental health maintenance, or all of the above these families are working each and every day to achieve their goals and get their lives to where they want them to be.

One situation that comes to mind is a current client of mine, a single mother in the process of reunifying with her children while simultaneously caring for her own mental health issues. When I first met her a year ago, she was scared, withdrawn, and resistant to services. She had also been homeless for a year and on any given day was staying with a friend or sleeping outside. When asked about her living situation, she admitted that her severe depression, combined with not having her children, left her lacking motivation when it came to taking care of herself. She missed her children which only worsened her depression and although she was seeking housing through our program, she had yet to address important pro-social issues such as counseling, employment, education, etc.

After several months of intensive case management through Supportive Housing for Families, my client began to weigh the pros and cons and saw the good it would do her to actively participate not only with Supportive Housing for Families but with all of her providers. It was she who said she was ready to reach her goals and get her children back. She is still in the process of reunifying with her son and daughter but in the meantime has signed a lease for her own three bedroom apartment in New London. She has been attending therapy weekly for three months and is working to expunge her past criminal record in order to seek employment. She will also begin overnight visits with her

children in the early spring. Just last month during a home visit, she was excited to tell me that she had enrolled herself in Adult Education courses and is planning to take her GED test in March 2010.

This incredible woman has come such a long way and although we are still working together to achieve even more, I have no doubt that she will flourish as she has already proven to be a role model for her children. I am very proud to say that this client, along with countless other participants in The Connection Inc's Supportive Housing for Families program are the people that I work with.