

## *DCF's Supportive Housing for Families Program*

### Testimony of India Lawrence

I got involved with DCF in December 2010 because of my drug use during pregnancy and after giving birth to my son. I didn't have a permanent place to go and I had run out of resources. My doctor referred me to Coventry House for substance abuse treatment which then became mandated by DCF after my son was removed. On the third try I got it right. DCF told me they would help me get my son back and gave me ways to improve my life. I started treatment at Coventry House for the last time in March 2011. They helped with parenting skills, therapy, anger management, and they connected me with resources in the community. But housing was still a problem and I would have no where to go with my son after I completed the program. DCF made a referral for me to the Supportive Housing for Families program. I was relieved when I found out I was accepted into the program because the only other option was a shelter, and I didn't think I would make it through my recovery in a shelter. DCF and Supportive Housing helped me find an apartment where I could live independently with my son. They helped me get furniture and other household items to make my house a home. My case manager helped me with energy assistance and finding play groups for my son. Now, my DCF case is closed successfully and I'm looking attend the Sawyer School starting in April to get my GED and certification as CNA. Without DCF and SHF's help, I would have gotten overwhelmed and gone back to drugs. I wouldn't be where I am today.