

Hi, my name is Jimmy Wilson Jr., and I'm a 36 -year-old single father of two and I live in Hartford. Four years ago, the police and DCF were called because I was intoxicated and my one year old son was left unsupervised. My children were removed and placed in a foster home. I went to jail for 90 days and was placed on probation for 2 years after my release. I knew then it was time for me to find a way to get released so I could focus on my children. After I came out of jail, I separated from my children's mother and went to live with friends and relatives, but without my children, as I no longer had custody of them.

I completed all the things DCF asked me to do and I was no longer on probation. I was referred by DCF to the Supportive Housing for Families program three years ago. I had a job working part-time and was able to see my children twice a week. DCF connected me with the Supportive Housing Program, which helps families to find a home so children can be reunified with their parents. With the help of Supportive Housing for Families I was able to find a three bedroom apartment in Hartford and they helped me furnish it. It was in March 2012 that I was able to have my children returned to my care.

It has been two years since I've been successfully reunified with my children who are now 5 and 7. They are attending school regularly and I make sure they have their medical and dental needs taken care of. I now have sole custody of my children as their mother is not able to take care of them. I'm also taking parenting classes and going for individual counseling. I would like to further my education so I can be a better provider for my children and help them to have better education for their future.

I promised myself and my children that "they will never go back to foster care". DCF helped me gain my life back and the opportunity to be a good father to my children.

Hi, my name is Amanda, I'm 24 years old and the single mother of a 3 year old daughter. Both my parents were addicts. My mother used heroin, crack cocaine and alcohol and my father was an alcoholic. I was placed in foster care immediately after I was born. I was returned to my parents for a period of time, but my father was abusive to me and my brothers and sisters, so I was returned to foster where I spent most of my childhood.

In December 2010, DCF referred me to Supportive Housing for Families. My daughter was a year old and I just left an abusive relationship with my daughter's father. I was facing eviction and had limited support as my family lives in another state. Supportive Housing for Families helped me with an apartment, and provided me with the support I needed to get my life back on track. My daughter is now three years old and we are both doing well. I just graduated from Western Connecticut State University with a Bachelor's degree in Paralegal Law and work full time. I hope to be able to attend law school one day.

If it wasn't for DCF, I wouldn't be where I am today. It's because they stepped in at the right time and referred me to Supportive Housing for Families that I can proudly say, that I'm a success. Thank you so much.