

Appropriations Committee Public Hearing on the Dept. of Social Services Budget

February 27, 2015

Ki-Young Burby

Catholic Charities

PLEASE RESTORE SAFETY NET SERVICES

First of all, I thank you all for your time.

I believe testimonies from Safety-Net participants speaks volume of what Safety-Net services means to families that we work with and I would like to share one with you.

“I was referred to the Safety-Net program after my family cash had ended. I was in dire straits. I had lost my job because as a CNA, you could only work 120 days for a facility with (without) being certified. I was worrying that my son and I would be evicted from public housing.

Anissa came into my life right on time. She explained the program and gave me hope that things would be okay as long as I continue to do some footwork. Since then, I have re-established a good relationship with my landlord and made a payment arrangement for my back rent.

I found employment at Foxwoods but was let go after my probationary period. But again, Anissa encouraged me to keep up the good fight. I have continued to look for employment and am enrolled to start my refresher course.

Anissa has helped me with my rent and electric bill, which has helped me to concentrate on my back rent. She always included my son in the Toys for Tots program at Christmastime, as well as helped me (with) food vouchers during the holidays.

Although we come from very different backgrounds, and at first I did not think Anissa was someone I needed nor wanted in my life, today I thank God for her help everyday.

She makes herself available by phone when I need her and I enjoy her company during our visits.

I am grateful to her and the entire Safety-Net program for “catching me” when I was falling. I just needed a little help to be sure my son and I was going to be okay.

Thank you and God bless the work you do.”

