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Zoraida White, CTFSA

PLEASE RESTORE SAFETY NET SERVICES

ESP

I was referred to the EPS program several times for what "they" called non-compliance. I did not understand what was required of me and to be honest my life was so stressful I wasn't able to help myself.

Immediately when I met Anissa I found it easy to talk with honestly about my home situation. I was drinking alcohol every day after my husband left and I was laid off from my job and I was able to be a good mother to my daughters who were having issues themselves.

Anissa encouraged me that I could stop drinking and that I was worthy of a happy life and my kids were too. I had been to Catholic Charities years ago as part of the pregnancy program and I knew there were good people there.

Anissa helped me to understand what was required of me at JFES and helped me to be honest with myself. She provided information to me about therapy at Catholic Charities and the times and locations of 12 step meetings where I could find support for my drinking problem.

Since being part of the ESP program, I have stopped drinking, filed my taxes, paid my back rent, enrolled in a High School Diploma Credit Program at New London Adult Education and engaged in behavioral health therapy.

Because of these changes, my daughter's are changing. My oldest is doing better in her therapy and has stopped being prescribed medication and my middle daughter has stopped getting in trouble at school due to her behavior. During one of my visits with Anissa, she explained to my daughters that education was important and that if they believed in themselves, they could do great things.

Anissa believed in me. That was what I needed to believe in myself. Today I am happy and proud of the things I am doing and my children are proud of the things I am doing.

I am grateful for my worker Anissa and for her kindness. This program has helped me very much because it helped me to believe that I could help myself.

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