

STACY GORDON:
Member of the White Earth Tribe
Mother of 4 and Grandmother of 5
Past Participant in the Minnesota Family Resiliency Partnership

I had been in an unsafe relationship and knew that for the safety of myself and my children, I had to move to Brainerd. Not knowing anyone except for a few family members in the area, I did not have any support and I felt lost. I was now a single mother of four children and was desperate to provide for my family and create stability in our lives.

I found out about the Minnesota Family Resiliency Partnership program and enrolled, from the first moment that I met with the director I was showered with love, hope, and support, things that had been lacking in my life.

I was provided a supportive environment to pursue my education and career goals. I attended and benefited from the various workshops and support groups offered. The different activities and things we learned and discussed, such as grief support, self-esteem, goal setting, resume writing, job interviewing skills and practice, communication skills, the use of the computer lab were extremely helpful as it was a quiet space I could go to work on homework and for job search. I did not have a computer at home, and having four kids at home made it exceedingly difficult for me to get anything done.

Because I lacked confidence and support, I felt like I did not belong in college; this program helped me to assimilate into the world of academia at Central Lakes College.

One of the biggest goals that this program helped me accomplish was getting my driver's license. I had a lot of fear and anxiety about driving. This has always been a huge issue for me. My kids and I walked everywhere we went, rain or shine and though we did what we had to do, walking in the cold and such, it was simply hard. I had little to no driving experience. The program director gave me the gentle nudge to finally take my road test. With this support and the newly found confidence in myself, I passed my test! I am now a confident-independent driver. I/we no longer have to walk, take a bus or cab, or bother anyone for a ride. It is a huge freedom! I had no idea how big of an impact it would make on my family.

Another major goal accomplished with the help of this program was getting a car, the program was very instrumental in helping me apply for a car that had been donated to another organization. I was so very happy to be the chosen recipient of a very nice car, which was and still is in very good condition. I couldn't have been or be any more grateful!

I can now happily say that I am a college graduate, and I am gainfully employed in a career that I love where I can help and support others to reach their goals as well.

I am so grateful for the services that this program has provided and for all the support I was given. This program has helped me in so many ways, it has changed the course for my family forever.