

**From:** Claire Kendall [clairek@fewcvt.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 3:49 PM  
**To:** Theresa Utton  
**CC:** Cindy Metcalf  
**Subject:** FW: testimonial from the Family Center

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Shayla Messier** <[shayla.messier@gmail.com](mailto:shayla.messier@gmail.com)>  
Date: Monday, February 12, 2018  
Subject: testimonial  
To: "shayla.messier" <[shayla.messier@gmail.com](mailto:shayla.messier@gmail.com)>

Hello, thank you for your time. I am here to support the parent child centers request to increase their Masters Grant funding by \$8 million.

I was originally referred to the supports of the family center of Washington County one of our local parent child centers through the economic services division as a single mom on reach up. I was able to enroll in the family works program there and obtain quality child care for my son. Once I had a safe space for him I was able to sit down and have meaningful conversation with my case manager at the FCWC to set goals for my future. I chose to concentrate on obtaining my Child Development Associate. Through the entire process I had support, reflection, and some much needed motivation when I felt overwhelmed and that it was all too much. After obtaining my CDA I was hired on as a Toddler Teacher at the FCWC. Since being hired on I have come to be completely self-sufficient and am no longer in need of the Reach Up or 3SquaresVT programs I was previously dependent on. While growing as a professional and working hard to provide new and exciting curriculum and experiences to the children and their families I serve each day and remembering all of the supports the FCWC offered me to help me get where I am, I feel obligated to testify to the need and importance for the funding for parent child centers. Thank you.

Shayla Messier  
Assistant Toddler Teacher  
Family Center of Washington County