



Addison County

Parent/Child Center

Helping Young Families get the Right Start

Three Women's Stories

Parent Child Centers are the Answer

Each January, we anticipate the President's State of the Union address, and listen for its promises for Americans. This January Addison County Parent/Child Center participants joined the discussion and submitted essays to Senator Bernie Sanders' "State of the Union" essay contest. In their essays, they poignantly reminded us that the "state of the union" is a daily concern for them and their families. Their testimony also reflected the mission of the Parent Child Center; learning and working together to improve the lives of adolescents, their children and families, and in turn the larger Addison county community.

MiKaila wrote, "Being a parent is one of the toughest challenges in a lifetime, especially at seventeen and a high school senior. A big reason I am so successful is because of people working together to help my son and me. The Parent Child Center is helpful by motivating me to finish my education and to being College at The Community College of VT. They also provide childcare for my son while I am in classes....I want my son to experience life at its fullest and have his dream job. We need to focus on education for our children so they have these great jobs; I want the government and citizens to focus on our home, America, and to work together like a family".



Amanda echoed MiKaila, "My family and friends would constantly say, 'Now you're really going to be screwed.' Twenty-years-old, pregnant, no high school diploma, homeless – these facts were once what everyone knew of me, but they never defined me. They assumed that I didn't want a better life, and that I never would, after many failed attempts, get my high school diploma. They didn't know that I believe all Americans deserve the chance to have equal opportunities for education that meets their specific learning needs. It took me three years to find the place where I could take my education seriously. Three years to be respected by teachers. I started attending The

Parent Child Center last September. I was finally at a place where I could enroll in small classes, receive individual helps as part of my schedule, and have childcare provided. I now have my Personal Care Assistance certification, my high school diploma, and am enrolled in a Licensed Nurse's Assistant course. I can feel myself becoming the person I've always wanted to be more and more each week".



Alex continued, "As humans we all deserve the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. To pursue our happiness, all Americans need support around their mental health. I wish every citizen could experience a warm welcoming place like the PCC. I am getting the support I need from the Center and I believe all people should have this same opportunity...It's important for me to be around people who have created a good life out of rough times...Just imagine what our country would be like if all Americans were given an opportunity to be at a place like the PCC?"

PCC CORE SERVICES PROVIDED TO MIKAILA

- Early Childhood Services 5 star food and transportation
- Home visits
- Parent Ed
- Parent support
- Concrete supports
- Information and Referral
- Graduated from High school in our approved Ed Program
- LARC – birth control
- Counseling
- Fed breakfast and lunch

PCC CORE SERVICES PROVIDED TO AMANDA

- The same as those received by MiKaila, and
- Post secondary education and training and

PCC CORE SERVICES PROVIDED TO ALEX

- Prevention – not a parent due to intensive supports
- Home visits
- Concrete supports
- Information and Referral
- In high school in our Approved Ed Program
- LARC – birth control
- Counseling
- Driver's ed.
- Fed breakfast and lunch

PARENT CHILD CENTERS = RESULTS

The mission of the Vermont Parent Child Center Network is to provide children, youth and families with strength based, holistic and collaborative services across Vermont with a focus on early childhood education and prevention services. The Network provides leadership, support and advocacy on behalf of its membership and in collaboration with key partners to achieve the best outcomes for families.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

The services MiKaila, Amanda, and Alex received relate directly to outcomes that drive our decision making as a state under Act 186. *MiKaila, Amanda, and Alex' stories show how supporting Vermont's Parent Child Centers moves us closer to achieving at least five of the eight quality of life outcomes we have identified as essential to our state and local communities.*

MiKaila and Amanda received high quality early education, including food and transportation, for their children

- Vermonters are healthy
- Vermont's communities are safe and supportive
- Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential, including:
Children are ready for school

MiKaila and Amanda received parental education

- Vermonters are healthy
- Vermont's communities are safe and supportive
- Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported
- Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential, including:
Children are ready for school

ACPC provided healthy meals for MiKaila, Amanda, Alex and their families

- Vermonters are healthy
- Vermont's communities are safe and supportive
- Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported

MiKaila, Amanda, and Alex are either attending high school, or have already graduated

- Vermont has a prosperous economy
- Vermont's communities are safe and supportive
- Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported
- Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential

MiKaila, Amanda, and Alex all received counseling services

- Vermont's communities are safe and supportive
- Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported
- Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential

ACPC Provided home visiting services to MiKaila, Amanda and Alex

- Vermonters are healthy
- Vermont's communities are safe and supportive
- Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported
- Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential, including:
Children are ready for school

The support MiKaila, Amanda, and Alex received positively impacts 7 indicators tracked by the State of Vermont to measure positive population outcomes.

1. Median household income
2. Rate of resident unemployment per 1,000 residents
3. Number and rate per 1,000 children and youth of children and youth in out-of-home care
4. Percent of children receiving State subsidy enrolled in high quality early childhood programs that receive at least four out of five stars under State standards
5. Percent of graduating high school seniors who continue their education within six months of graduation
6. Percent of high school graduates entering postsecondary education, work, or training
7. Rate of high school graduates entering a training program per 1,000 high school graduates

ROI STATISTICS

Wages based on degree (National Center for Education Statistics)

- A person holding a high school diploma can earn 20% more, on average, than someone without that diploma. \$24,960 (@ \$12.48/hr) vs. \$30,000 (\$15/hr)
- A person with an associate's degree earns 18% more, on average, than someone with a high school diploma.

High Quality Child Care= 7 to 1 ROI: Child Care Financial Assistance payment of \$10,164 year results in a potential savings to the state of \$31,850 annually = \$7 "return to society" which is connected to lower special education costs, lower crime rate, higher earnings, better health behaviors, higher rates of employment

Homeless vs. Housing - \$20,250 (AHS – Housing Director)

- Providing an individual that is homeless shelter for a year costs \$27,594 vs \$7,344 for permanent housing. ROI=\$20,250
- Costs \$6,351 to house a family for 84 days through Economic Services
- Costs \$7,344 for a voucher to support them in permanent housing for a year

Related language from the PCC

Master Grant: (Outcomes)

- C. iii. Parent Child Centers provide eight core services which contribute to Vermont population-level quality of life indicators identified in 3 V.S.A. § 2311
- (b) (5) Vermont families are safe, nurturing, stable and supported.
- (6) Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential.
- (A) Pregnant women and young people thrive.
- (B) Children are ready for school.
- (C) Children succeed in school.

