



Jenny's Story

Parent Child Centers are the Answer

JENNY'S STORY

When we met Jenny, she was a young mother in her early twenties. She had moved to Vermont to find refuge from a family traumatized by severe substance abuse, poverty, and homelessness. She found her way to rehab, gave birth to a baby girl, and eventually found the Orange County Parent Child Center after a referral from her Reach Up case manager. By this time, her daughter was about a year old. Jenny was substance free, but unreliable, lacking confidence, and struggling to hang on. She was alone and afraid, but she was also full of hope for her child's future.

Early in her relationship with OCPCC services, Jenny was asked to complete these sentences, "I am..." "I need..." and "I hope..." These were her responses:

"I am independent. I am a good mother. I am brave to be on my own."

"I need to sit down, shut up, do my work, and get off the state."

"I hope to have healthy relationships throughout my life."

"I hope my daughter creates her own path to a great future."

Jenny and her daughter accessed an array of services at OCPCC – full time childcare, intensive home-visiting, and Jenny enrolled in our onsite Learning Together program where she accessed her Reach Up case manager, parent education, budgeting classes, the support of a peer group, and completed her high school diploma work. She made a list: find affordable, high quality childcare; find a reliable vehicle; get her high school diploma; become more employable; gain stronger parenting skills; and build a network of friends and supports. In addition, Jenny's daughter was enrolled in our childcare classroom, where healthy relationships and skills were models for her every day. She was safe and nurtured while her Mom was busy reaching her goals. All this took place over a span of about 15 months. The results were astounding. **A few years later, we know Jenny is still thriving. Her daughter is enrolled in preschool, Jenny is working full time, and they are living without the benefits of any state assistance.**

PCC CORE SERVICES PROVIDED TO JENNY

Early Care & Education Services

- Full-Day, Full Year, 4 STAR High Quality Childcare
- Child Care & Adult Care Food Program Providing Breakfast, Lunch, And Afternoon Snack Daily

Adult Education & Parent Education Supports

- Families Learning Together: a program for pregnant, parenting, or at risk teens and young adults.
- Classes and Services in: high school diploma/equivalency; peer support group; financial literacy, parent education, and health & wellness classes; work experiences & job training; access to counseling services, childcare; Reach Up case management and more.

Community Playgroups

- Weekly Facilitated Playgroups in community spaces for parents and children.

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 Jenny received relate directly to the outcomes that drive our decision making as a state under Act 186. Jenny's story shows how supporting Vermont's Parent Child Centers moves us closer to achieving at least six of the eight population outcomes we have identified as essential to our state and local communities.

Orange County PCC helped Jenny find full time childcare so she could meet her education & employment goals.

- Pregnant women & young people thrive
- Vermont has a prosperous economy.
- Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported.
- Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential including:
 - Youths successfully transition to adulthood

Orange County PCC gave Jenny daily supports in completely her high school diploma work.

- Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential including:
 - Pregnant women and young people thrive
 - Children succeed in school
 - Youths choose healthy behaviors
 - Youths successfully transition to adulthood
- Vermont has a prosperous economy

Jenny accessed job training at Orange County PCC and fulfilled community service hours for employment experience.

- Vermont has a prosperous economy.
- Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported.
- Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential including:
 - Youths successfully transition to adulthood

PCC RETURN ON INVESTMENT:

- Saved. Jenny is no longer on Reach Up = \$8,268 (DCF – Economic Services)
- Potential. 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)
- 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.
- ACEs Intervention Savings= \$210,000 (2010 dollars): Individuals with a higher number of ACEs are more likely to smoke, abuse alcohol and illicit substances, be obese, be physically inactive, and exhibit high-risk sexual behaviors. In addition to profound health effects, child abuse and neglect is also associated: including \$33,000 in childhood health care costs, \$11,000 in adult medical costs, \$144,000 in productivity losses, \$8,000 in child welfare costs, \$7,000 in criminal justice costs, and \$8,000 in special education costs.

Jenny learned parenting skills and gained knowledge of her child's developmentally-appropriate needs.

- Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported.
- Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential including:
 - Pregnant women and young people thrive

Jenny was supported in her desire to remain healthy and substance free.

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

The support Jenny received directly impacts 7 indicators tracked by AHS to measure positive population outcomes.

1. Rate of children and youth in out of home care per 1,000 children and youth; Rate of school attendance per 1,000 children;
2. Percent of children receiving child care subsidy attending quality early childhood programs.
3. Rate of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children;
4. Percent of children ready for school in all four domains of healthy development
5. Rate of high school graduation per 1,000 high school students
6. Percent of high school seniors with plans for education, vocational training, or employment.
7. High school graduates who graduated with a Regular High School diploma and enrolled in postsecondary education within 16 months after high school graduation.

