

Parent Child Centers are the Answer Bhadri's Story

My name is Bhadri and I moved to the United States from Nepal in 2012. I got pregnant when I was 17 years old. While I was pregnant, it was hard for me to be in a traditional high school. The teachers and students didn't understand my situation. I learned about Lund when I was 8 months pregnant and started attending their high school right away. It was so nice to be around other moms like me. When my daughter was born, I was able to bring her to school with me. I didn't have to choose between being a student or a mom.

I got a lot of help through Lund's programs. One support that was so important to me was Reach Up. My Reach Up case manager works with me to help solve real-life problems like housing, transportation, and finances. Because of Reach Up, I have financial support each month to support me and my child. I was able to continue my education instead of having leave school in order to find a job to make ends meet. And now, I am able to provide a more stable future for myself and my child.

Having my Reach Up case manager in the same place as my school and other Lund supports was so important for me. I was able to have all the members of my team in one place so I did not need to miss school in order to make my other appointments. Also, all of the members of my team met with me as a group a lot, which helped me stay on track and reach my goals.

I am proud to say that I graduated from high school last year and am continuing my education. I never thought I would be able to say that as a single mom. I worked very hard to get where I am and could not have done this without the help of Reach Up and my other supports at Lund. Tonight, I am asking you to continue supporting the Reach Up program in Parent-Child Centers like Lund.

Without Lund's programs, I don't think I would be hopeful about my future. I don't think I would have finished school. I don't think I would be an understanding parent. I don't think I would have been able to provide an

independent future for my family. Without Lund, I would be confused, frustrated, and alone. Coming to Lund changed my life. I found a community that understands me, cares about me, and helps me reach my goals. Because of my work with Lund, I am looking forward to an independent, happy life with my family.