

Good morning my name is Kari Aube

I want to thank to everyone here today for the opportunity to share my experience at the Addison County Parent Child Center.

In September 2001 I became a participant at the Parent Child Center in Middlebury Vermont. I was 17, pregnant and very much afraid that the future didn't hold much for me. Looking back at the person I was makes me sad, to feel like you weren't worth anything, that you had nothing to add to the community you lived in other than disappointment was a hard life to live. I had lost trust in most people and to be truthful I didn't have much faith in the Parent Child Center. Thankfully I was wrong about that. What I did find was a place where people truly cared about you and saw a future for you even when you couldn't.

It took me a while to open up. When I did it was not only to the staff members at the PCC but to myself. I found out who I was and who I wanted to be. It's hard to paraphrase my experience at the PCC and I wish I had hours to share so much with you all, but I understand that time is limited. They gave me the tools to grow, they helped me fix the cracks in my foundation to make me a stronger person. They helped me find my voice in this world where it is easy to be muted. Without the Parent Child center, I can say I would not be the person I am today. I am a strong, passionate teacher and mother. I have worked hard over the years earning my Child Development Accreditation and continuing my education in early child education field.

18 years later I have come HOME. As of September 2019, I am an employee at the Addison County Parent Child Center. I work as a floating teacher in the childcare classrooms and provide transportation support for some of the families we work with. It is now my chance to make a difference in the lives of the families and children who face daily challenges.

I am grateful that I get to share my story and now I ask you to please support S263 to strengthen and update the statue for the Parent Child Center Network. With this support there can be many more stories like mine.

Everyone deserves to be able to access the support they need. Together as a community we can give back and make a brighter future for families and children.