

## Single Mom Graduates from CHF with Triple the Income after 23 Months!

Dear CHF Friends,

Families come and go from CHF. Many are special and leave lasting impressions on the CHF staff. One family that comes to mind is Christy, a single mom with 2 children, who recently graduated from CHF. Christy's annual income went from \$14,316 to \$45,168 in twenty-three months. The following story tells how...

Christy was heartbroken after her husband of four years abandoned her and the children. Although she was not working outside of the home, she was working on a Bachelor's Degree in Applied Psychology online and at home with her children. Shortly after her husband left Christy discovered that their joint account had been completely cleaned out, and her husband had secretly linked her social security number to several large debts. Christy felt overwhelmed and not really sure what she was going to do. This was her second marriage, and she really thought he was a good man. Now she was alone again with her two young children, with no job, no money, and a mountain of debt.

Christy's mom invited them to 'temporarily' move into her small apartment. This was not something Christy wanted to do, but it was the only way they could survive as a family. Then Christy found a job with Coorstek. She was relieved and thought things were on the way to getting better, and hopefully it wouldn't be too long before she could find her own apartment and get her life back on track. However, Christy's financial life became even worse during the divorce process. Christy's ex-husband was ordered to pay only part of the debt that he acquired in Christy's name. However, he chose to ignore the judge's decree and shortly after the divorce was final Christy's wages were garnished. Christy was barely able to put food on the table for herself and her children with her inadequate income. She was feeling desperate and was not sure where to turn for help.

Christy planned to use her tax return to file for bankruptcy so she could get out from under the enormous debt that was crushing her. However, her tax return was also garnished and once again Christy felt like things were hopeless, and she would never be financially stable again. How was she going to take care of her children? How could she afford a place of her own especially with housing costs so high? A friend told Christy about Colorado Homeless Families, and when Christy was accepted into the program she felt a glimmer of hope.

At CHF Christy had time to heal, strategize and develop a plan for her life. She knew she needed to make some life changes. She met with the CHF case managers on a weekly basis and also began attending our educational seminars and support group meetings three times each month. Soon Christy was equipped with the tools necessary to make some positive changes with boundaries, relationships and self-confidence. She began to find direction, feel confident and develop personal goals. She developed peace in who she was and what she could become.

Christy applied for a position with the United States Postal Service and it wasn't long before she was hired in a temporary position at \$20 an hour as a substitute Mail Carrier. Once hired Christy worked very hard taking every route that was available to her with the hope of being hired as a permanent Mail Carrier. With perseverance and determination, **Christy reached her goal to be a permanent Postal Worker with benefits and a respectable income! What an accomplishment!**

**Christy is a Colorado Homeless Families success story!** When Christy first came to CHF her annual income was \$14,316. When she graduated from CHF twenty-three months later, her annual income had increased to \$45,168! **Christy's income tripled due to her hard work and determination along with the support, life skills and education that she received from the CHF program.** In a letter to former Executive Director, Connie Zimmerman, Christy said, "I can't thank you enough for the opportunity to kick start my life again! CHF will always be in my heart. Thank you so much!" **Christy is a living example of what hard work, determination and support can do.** Christy's success is possible because of your donations and support of CHF. **Thank you!**

All donations, regardless of size, help make it possible for Colorado Homeless Families to offer job training, food, shelter, support services, counseling, and educational programming to homeless children and families in our community. Your generous gift will help support the families at CHF as they work to overcome the challenges in their lives to become self-sufficient and productive members of society.

Please know that even the smallest gift can help the children and families at Colorado Homeless Families. The families at CHF are so grateful for your support.