

Jessica and her husband had a good life with everyday struggles, but overall they were doing okay. They had a beautiful home that they built together and they had 2 young children. Then Jessica's husband lost his job and for 5 years searched for a new one, to no avail. He even tried his own business, but things fell through. He began sinking into a deep depression. Jessica was working part-time but could not make ends meet on her own. Bills began piling up, bankruptcy was on the horizon and their home of 15 years was going into foreclosure. Tension was building and Jessica's husband reached a point of hopelessness with no way out. One day when Jessica came home she noticed that her husband was in a despondent state of mind and without warning began throwing gasoline throughout their house and on Jessica. His plan was to end all of his pain and despair; and take Jessica and the children with him. Jessica was shocked that her husband of 19 years was trying to kill his family and burn up their home. She grabbed the children before her husband could harm them and ran outside, screaming for help. The screams of terror alerted the neighbors and they rushed over to rescue Jessica and the children. While Jessica and the children were being looked after by paramedics; Jessica's husband ran away and eventually turned himself into Fort Logan Mental Institute.

When Jessica came to CHF, she was emotionally traumatized and physically blistered from the gasoline being thrown on her. She had always lacked positive role models in her life; her father died when she was very young and her mother was not in an emotionally supportive state. Even though her face showed the marks of her ordeal; she could now look to the future and away from the horrific incident that could have taken her life and the life of her precious children.

***Even though Jessica has been through many difficulties, she is a person of strength and determination.***

At CHF, Jessica and her children were provided with housing, food, clothing, counseling and case management. Her case manager helped her to identify her vision and goals and they developed a plan for her education. Jessica's dream was to run a child care facility and now she had the opportunity to do just that. Jessica began a two year program to become a licenced child care director. Jessica worked hard while living in CHF's program; she went to school, worked part-time and cared for her children. She was determined to become self-sufficient. She had many ups and downs but never gave up. In 2012, Jessica received her Director's License in Early Childhood Education.

In 2013 Jessica learned of a child care business that was for sale in Jefferson County. It was everything she had dreamed of in a business and it would also provide a place for her to live with her two children. A friend of Jessica's deceased father helped Jessica write a business plan, get financing and prepare all of the necessary paperwork to start her business. Jessica is so excited to be graduating from CHF and starting her own business on August 1! **The following are Jessica's words:**

*To Connie Zimmerman and the Colorado Homeless Families Staff,*

*It is bitter sweet to write this letter and I have been putting it off because of this very reason. As I have discussed in person with you all, I will be moving out August 1, 2013.*

*I am so very blessed to be able to move into a home and take care of my own business and believe that you all have given me the tools to be at this place in my life. I appreciate everything that I have received here at CHF, I have had the opportunity to spend the last few years growing here, discovering who I am while throwing myself back in school. Please know that you all have been a*

*great support system for me. The daily cheers of support when things were good or bad have made it much easier for me to know someone cared. I truly consider each and every one of you my friends. I truly appreciate the support you have given to me and my children as we worked toward the goals that you helped us establish. I still have some goals that I will continue to reach for but I know that you have given me the tools I need to make it.*

*Colorado Homeless Families will always be a special place in our hearts and I will never forget the help that I received here. I have referred others here and will continue to do so in the future. Now I hope to be able to support CHF in a different way.*

*Thank you with all my heart,  
Jessica*

Jessica's story is one of inspiration and hope that demonstrates how a person can achieve their dreams with hard work and determination. She is a strong role model for her children and has overcome many obstacles. Colorado Homeless Families provides individuals like Jessica the opportunity to make the necessary changes to become individuals that could someday change the world. **Your donations help make change possible in people's lives. We are so grateful for your help. As you can see your donations make it possible for the families that come to CHF to achieve success.**

**We invite you to help CHF provide a safe and nurturing environment for youth and families, like Jessica and her two children, as they strive to achieve self-sufficiency. Your support will help make it possible for Colorado Homeless Families to provide food, shelter, support services, counseling, case management and educational programming to homeless children and families in our community.**