

SUPPORT WHEN YOU NEED IT

Agency: TAPP (Teenage Parenting Program) and ABE (Adult Basic Education)

Programs: Lincoln Logs Learning Center

Service: Provides a safe, stimulating, nurturing environment for the children of teen, refugee and other at-risk parents, as well as early childhood instruction and parent education

Need: Without access to quality, on-site early childhood learning, many of these children of at-risk families wouldn't have the opportunity to build the skills they need to prepare them for kindergarten

Impact: Last year, Lincoln Logs provided over 42,500 hours of early childhood instruction to 61 children of teen, refugee, and other at-risk families, as well as over 8,900 hours of parent education to these families. As a result, the parents of these families are on the path to self-sufficiency and their children are gaining the skills they need to help prepare them for kindergarten and life ahead.

This is one girl's personal story about how her life has been given new opportunities because of the TAPP program and funding from United Way.

At the time I am writing this, I am 17 years old and have an 8 month old son at Lincoln Logs Learning Center. We both are so lucky to have a scholarship for child care. I found out I was pregnant at 16. I couldn't do volleyball anymore, be in drama, or my passion, band. I couldn't go to my old high school anymore, and my plan was to just drop out. That's what my family told me I would probably do anyway because they said I couldn't handle it all; they pretty much saw me as giving up.

Then I heard about Central High School and how they have the TAPP program and on-site child care. I was so happy because now I could still graduate and do the things I wanted to do. So I switched over to Central; everyone was amazingly nice and understanding of my life. The day I had my son was the best day of my life; he was perfectly healthy and everything. Over the summer I couldn't wait to start school, and have my son only 2 floors away. The first day I dropped him off the teachers were so nice and sweet. They let me know exactly what was going on, they gave me advice, and they respected the wishes I had for my son. Today, my son is happy as can be. He loves his teachers and his classmates. Right now I am a Junior, but have the credits of a Senior. I am currently working and looking towards college classes. The TAPP program has allowed me to not only show my family I didn't give up, but that I can achieve much more; without it I would probably be sitting home right now wishing things could be different.

Carolyn (TAPP Program Director) has helped me with so much; she helped me apply for child care and a child care scholarship; she even helped me get back into band at my old school, which makes my life even better. She is an amazing woman and what United Way does is phenomenal. I feel so honored to say thank you for everything you do and for giving me a chance to show my son that even though I had him so young, I can still fulfill my dreams and make him proud of me.



Your support of United Way makes it possible for at-risk families to receive child care scholarships, so they can continue to further their education and hopes for their future, while their child receives quality care and vital early childhood education.