

Finding Home

By Nora Lovelette

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Pregnancy and motherhood often result in a combination of excitement, awe, love and ANXIETY. Young women in Washington County Youth Service Bureau's (YSB) Transitional Living Program (TLP) have all these feelings. However, they must also

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struggle to meet basic needs such as a home, food, and adequate support from loved ones. TLP helps these pregnant and parenting women make the transition to secure and healthy living situations. The program helps them find long-term shelter and provides life skills training, support and advocacy. TLP also assists them in making connections with other area services.

When the Youth Service Bureau received the grant from The Vermont Women's Fund we were at capacity for housing assistance. We were working with 3 pregnant women. Two were homeless and



Program participant Chelsea McElroy and daughter, Kaliyah

one was in unstable housing. We were about to put these women on a waitlist for housing assistance – a heartbreaking thing to do. Thanks to The Vermont Women's Fund all three young women were able to find stable housing prior to the birth of their babies.

The Vermont Women's Fund also provided a unique opportunity to make a local connection. During the grantee awards ceremony in May, fellow grantee Nancy Lynch of Safeline Inc. approached me and volunteered her services as a childbirth educator. The TLP participants were thrilled to have private childbirth lessons. They had been feeling uncomfortable about attending classes, partly because they were unsure who would be with them during the birth, but Nancy came in and immediately established a great rapport.

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For more information about this and other programs from Washington County Youth Service Bureau, please contact Nora Lovelette at 802.229.9151 or nlovelette@youthservicebureau.info



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