



Success Spotlight

Last November, a tired mother with two preschool children walked into the St. Augustine office and was met by one of our Family Service Specialists. With exhaustion in her voice and tears in her eyes, the mom started telling her story.

Her husband had been laid off for three months. Bills started to pile up and they went into debt trying to pay for their basic needs like electricity. They lost their phone service and were in danger of losing their home. All the while, her husband continued to look for work.

Then, without warning, the husband disappeared without a trace. She looked tirelessly for him, but without success. And while she was worried sick for her husband, she now faced the responsibility to be the sole-provider for her family.

The holidays were approaching and instead of hanging Christmas lights, they were looking at having no lights at all. In addition, she desperately needed help with child care so she could find work.

Our Family Service Specialist, after hearing her story, immediately took charge of finding her child care and then contacted our Social Services Department to help pay her electric bill for the safety of the family. The mother and family were then added to the list for holiday outreach through our Family Outreach Coordinator.

By Christmas, the family received food for a holiday dinner and gifts for the children and mother. She is now on the right track to making it on her own, due in part to the support of the services of the Early Learning Coalition.

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