

Success Spotlight

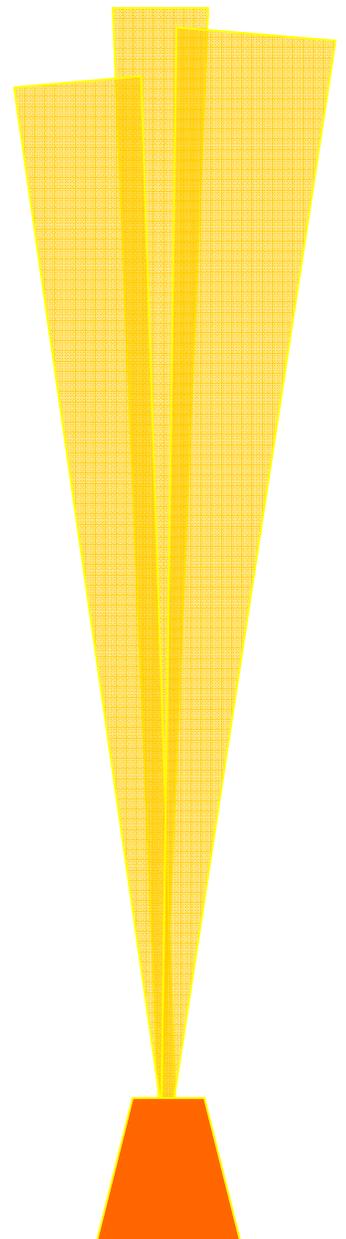
Despite social myths that recipients of public assistance are unappreciative and without ambition, many of Episcopal Children's Services' clients display just the opposite traits. Clients express gratitude regularly and have optimism for the future.

Jane Kelly* and parents Richard* and Marcia Kelly* are just two examples of families who ECS has helped financially, allowing them to manage daily for themselves and their children.

Both families are eligible by income and employment requirements, but prior to eligibility Jane received childcare assistance by qualifying for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families state funding. In other words, she was a welfare mother, and ECS was able to continue providing services after the temporary cash assistance ended.

Marcia, single mother of a daughter and a son, said that ECS services have allowed her to move out of her cramped apartment into a larger home.

"I got lucky," she said. "And with the money I was able to save from Episcopal's help with daycare, I was able to put more money into my rent."



Her new place has enough room for her daughter to have her own room and is in a nice neighborhood close to her children's schools.

Marcia is also in training to be a court reporter. She explained that this eventual employment opportunity holds promise of higher income and improved financial stability. This is evidence to the fact that many ECS clients have ambitions which ECS services help them to meet.

"Episcopal Children's Services' assistance is absolutely wonderful," Marcia said. "I wouldn't be able to do without it."

The Kelly family is also very appreciative. Richard, disabled and a father of three, said ECS services have allowed Marcia Kelly to obtain a much-needed surgical procedure on one of her feet. "It [ECS] was great with Marcia's surgery," he said. "That was a big help."

He continued that subsidized assistance with daycare helps them stretch their budget on a daily basis also. "Our income is limited, and with me on disability and Marcia as a 10-month employee, it's hard to make ends meet. We could never do it on our own, and it's just good to have the kids in a place we can trust."

*not real name