



PATHWAY of HOPE[®]

WESTERN DIVISION

POH NEWSLETTER

April 2016

Cami's husband died some years ago of an unexpected, brain-trauma induced stroke. After this, she said her and her family was "just existing." Along with her daughter, her autistic son, and her adopted grandson (diagnosed with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder), Cami stated that she began utilizing the Fort Dodge, Iowa's Salvation Army's (TSA) programs in any way that could help her sustain the family's basic needs. Food was on top of the list.

Though Cami and her son began receiving widow's death-benefits and S.S.D.I., respectively; this paltry amount made it difficult to pay off her college debt, pay monthly rent, as well as other personal-living costs. As time went by, Cami said it was "very hard to raise kids... hard times to make ends meet," as the house was cold and hearing gun-shots was common place in her neighborhood. But after her daughter's 2014 suicide attempt, Cami hit bottom. She said that to get through this period, TSA officers Captains Ron and Carol "prayed with her."

It was at this time that Sharka Alstott (case manager) said that she and the corps officers discussed enrolling Cami's family into Pathway of Hope (POH). All three staff members were in agreement, and Cami soon became a POH client. Collaborative goal setting was the first-order-of-business. These included dental-health care, affordable housing, parenting classes, and financial stability.

Cami shared that she was unable to find a local dentist to care for her severe gum problems. After much resource searching by Sharka and Captain Carol, the University Hospitals & Clinics (U of I) in Iowa City decided to assess Cami. It wasn't long before the dental staff deemed Cami's problems as potentially life threatening.



Fort Dodge, Iowa Pathway of Hope Client

POH resources paid for travel and lodging to/from Iowa City, while all health bills, including dentures, were paid via U of I.

Along with U of I, other outside resources employed by Sharka included Children & Families of Iowa and Ft. Dodge Housing Authority. The former assisted Cami's daughter's mental-health needs, while the latter provided Cami's family with safe and affordable housing. Recently, Cami shared that the new house is nicer, the family is happy, and they live in a good neighborhood.

While in POH, Sharka met with Cami twice/ week and, among other things, assisted with financial budgeting. Sharka said, "She [Cami] wanted to get off government assistance and work," even though this meant assistance reduction or loss. Now Cami proudly shares she is "debt-free."

The officers also helped Cami by cleaning her house and providing the family with new beds and beddings. Cami shared that she never could afford these accessories.

Cami confidently smiles in TSA's kitchen (see photo) where she works, stating that she loves her job and "feel better about myself [with dentures]." She adds that she and her family are very active as part of TSA's congregation; that when other churches frowned on her and her family, TSA was there "with open arms."

-Mark Dougherty [Client's Name Changed]