

## Erin

### Looking ahead to a better life

As Erin looks ahead to her new life, she knows that her resolve, her tenacity, and Tabor's support have had everything to do with her success. In July of 2005 Erin and her then-11-month-old daughter Lily moved into an apartment in Tabor's Jubilee House, a transitional housing program for homeless mothers who have completed a drug treatment program. Jubilee House, which includes five furnished apartments at 450 E. King, offers safe, affordable, transitional housing as well as support from Tabor counselors. Residents pay thirty percent of their annual income for their apartment. Jubilee residents can either work full-time or go to school full time, or they can go to school part time and work part time. Tabor's Lenara Porter, Jubilee House Coordinator, meets with them weekly to provide budget counseling, assist them in establishing goals, and help define the steps needed to accomplish these goals.

Erin was eager to move into an apartment, which she felt was a "next step in learning to be responsible and living on (her) own." Ready to explore her new life and perhaps as a sign of their progress, Lily graduated from crawling to walking almost as soon as they moved in. Cooking, cleaning, and maintaining an apartment for herself and Lily were just some of the new responsibilities Erin would undertake. During meetings with Lenara, Erin established her goals as she worked on a year-long nursing program at Lancaster County Career and Technology Center. Her goals were get her license as a practical nurse, work in her field, and continue her schooling to become a registered nurse. She will become a Licensed Practical Nurse in April of this year. With help from Lenara, Erin opened her first checking and savings accounts, learned to budget her money, began paying her household bills, and is accumulating savings through Tabor's Family Savings Account (FSA) program [now **Matched Savings Accounts**]. With the money she is saving in the FSA program, Erin plans to continue her training to become a Registered Nurse. Beginning this April, Erin hopes to land her first job as a licensed practical nurse.

Erin's story is inspiring to all of us. She has made a new life for herself and for Lily, and having just celebrated two years in which she has maintained her recovery, Erin has put the past well behind her. She has very positive feelings about her experience at Jubilee and continues to recommend the program to those in need. Jubilee House, with support from Lenara, has provided her with the transitional time and the help she needed to establish what we know will be a very bright future.