

Evy's Journey to Self-Sufficiency

Evy, at the youthful age of 24, cares for five children, all under the age of seven, and works full-time as a certified nurse assistant. Evy's journey may sound like a typical story of a single parent household, but Evy is anything but typical. Through her determination, she overcame many extraordinary obstacles in her journey toward self-sufficiency.

Two years ago Evy was gripped with fear. She knew she needed help to make changes in her life. She found herself in a local shelter, wondering how she could start all over again, this time, on her own. At age 22, caring for four children (with the fifth on the way) was a struggle both financially and emotionally. Could she actually do it on her own?

The shelter provided Evy with much needed stability and protection and it wasn't long before Evy, a resilient 22-year-old, was referred to Tabor's Shelter to Independent Living program to help her get back on her feet. With help from her Tabor counselor, Evy established short and long-term goals, with her first to achieve her GED. She had lofty goals set for herself but she knew that it all started with square one, her GED. She accomplished her first goal with flying colors!

Evy tackled her goals one at a time, knowing that good things take time. Secondly, she maintained one lease on her own without any public assistance and moved into a larger house, providing much needed room for her children. When asked how her Tabor counselor helped her reestablish her life, Evy commented "...She helped me get an apartment and find a good landlord. A good landlord makes a difference. I don't have to worry if something is broken, I know that he will fix it. She also referred me to local telephone and electric programs that help me to budget those expenses. That's a big help in my budgeting."

Next, to increase her job skills, Evy completed a certified nurse assistant (CNA) training and now has her sights set on becoming a registered nurse (RN). In addition to her goal of becoming an RN, Evy set goals to clear up her credit, obtain a driver's license and car and eventually own her own home. She is giving herself to age 30 to achieve her goal of homeownership! Patience is difficult now that Evy sees her own potential. She knows that her dream of owning her own home is in reach. As difficult as waiting is, Evy recognizes that she needs to take life one step at a time, first things first. Transporting five children is difficult without a license or a car. But, Evy does anything but sulk. Her demeanor is one of determination, searching for solutions to her problems rather than focusing on the problem itself. That, she says, is something she learned at Tabor. "Before I came to Tabor, I thought I would fail, I expected to fail " says Evy. "Now I realize that I need to take control of my problems and work toward solving them. My kids are learning that too! I explain to my children that there are no handouts in life, and they must work for what they achieve."

Today, nearly two years since she came to Tabor, Evy is well on her way to a productive life. Two of the many things Evy says she has learned in the past years are organization and responsibility, character traits that will take her anywhere she wants to go! Evy is an excellent role model for other young mothers facing tough decisions ahead.