

# Home Start Resident Spotlight



## Rosa and Family

### **What was your life like before you came to Home Start?**

It was depressing having to be homeless with eight children. They were very unhappy and so was I.

### **What happened to cause you to search for assistance at Home Start?**

I was trying to leave a twelve year relationship of domestic violence.

### **How long were you homeless before you came to Home Start?**

We were homeless for about 3 years.

### **What were your first impressions of Home Start?**

Wow, a place that takes in a family of nine.

### **What was the biggest adjustment for you when you first moved in?**

Having a routine. Learning how to be positive, and how to budget my money.

### **What sorts of skills did you learn during your year here?**

I've learned so much. I've learned how to be a better parent and a better person. I've learned how to achieve my goals, and that I deserve a better life. My kids now have stability.

### **What classes, therapy, or other**

### **forms of assistance were the most valuable to you?**

I would have to say the classes, because they teach you how to deal with your past issues and prepare you for the future.

### **Do you think you changed during your stay here? How?**

Yes, very much so. I know I am a better parent. My kids are so happy at Home Start. I've changed so much: I am happier, and ready for the challenges that life has to offer. I have a routine and stability for my kids that has prepared us for anything.

### **What was your most memorable moment at Home Start?**

I would say the limo ride my kids went on (to see holiday lights). They were so happy, it made me cry. They have been through so much. It made me realize that I could give them what they deserve: a happy life.

### **Did the residents support one another throughout the program?**

Yes, we did. It is great to know you're not the only one with problems, and you're not alone in this program.

### **If you could go back in time and say something to yourself during your first week at Home Start, what would it be? What words of**

### **encouragement would you offer to new Home Start residents?**

I would have to say it gets better from here on. Be positive, and put your kids first. This is the first step to doing things right for your kids' lives, and for yours.

### **Do you feel Home Start was a worthwhile program for you?**

It changed me for the better. It gave me a second chance at life, and showed me how to be a great person and a better mom. I will never forget what I've learned and will use it to the best of my ability. I would have to say I grew up here, and learned more than I have all of my life. To all the staff, you're more of a family than I ever had. I will treasure this forever. THANK YOU!



**UPDATE:** In February 2012, Rosa secured employment, and received a vehicle donated by Cooks Collision. She and her family are well on their way to independence and self-sufficiency.