



**January Point In Time Counts.
2012 and 2013 reflect increases due to the May 2011 Joplin Area F5 tornado.

Strong Women. Brighter Tomorrow.

Having the courage to break the cycle is not easy, but women are resilient!

Violet, a single mom, found herself couch surfing after she fled an abusive family situation. Because of her past trauma, she is not involved with her family. She sought services at Economic Security Corporation of Southwest Area and selected an individualized approach utilizing ESC's Strength-Based Case Management services. Her only household income was Social Security Income and Food Stamps.

With the help of an ESC case manager, Violet rented an older small studio apartment after saving up for the deposit and first month's rent. Violet was able to obtain safe housing that allowed her to stabilize her family. She also knew to provide for her family, she would need to complete her high school diploma equivalency. So her case manager helped her enroll in Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) classes. Early on, a large barrier that Violet encountered to attending AEL classes was the fact she did not have transportation. ESC stepped in to provide transportation assistance in the form of monthly City of Joplin trolley passes. To Violet's relief, this small change allowed her to attend her much-needed AEL classes. Community Action Agencies like ESC have a cadre of services that we can bundle to help a family become self-sufficient. ESC's case manager reviewed other resources, including helping her complete an application for the Head Start program, to which she was selected. Violet said the services were extremely helpful, and her son George achieved many milestones while involved in this early childhood program. Another ESC service we were able to bundle was the utility assistance program to help the family stay warm.

Affordable and safe housing is critical for struggling families, especially those brave enough to leave an abusive situation. Violet was fortunate because she was selected for subsidized, affordable housing, allowing her to move into a more spacious two-bedroom apartment. Now, her son has his own room. His participation in Head Start helped George get school-ready, and he successfully transitioned from Head Start to public school. Violet obtained her High School Equivalency Certificate and today she is enrolled in college classes. As a domestic violence survivor, she was able to overcome her challenges and now looks forward to her future.

The National Domestic Violence

HOTLINE

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