



Child and Family Services of Northwestern Michigan
- Strengthening the Fabric of the Family Since 1937-

Your help makes a real difference...everyday.

Tina is sixteen, fair-haired and hazel-eyed, a tiny young girl who weighs all of ninety-five pounds. Everyone who knows her says she's "anybody's little girl," a girl who when you meet you just want to hug.

Tina's mom is mentally ill, bipolar, likely schizophrenic, and has been in and out of the Goodwill Inn for as long as Tina can remember. As a result, Tina turned to her stepfather for the love and affection she didn't receive from her own dad, or often from her mom. Unfortunately, Tina's stepfather sexually abused her, she became pregnant, and he convinced her they could raise the baby together. A doctor was alerted by something amiss in Tina's story about the baby's father and she was placed in foster care and the stepfather is now serving fifteen years in prison.

Tina decided to place her baby for adoption and found an adoptive family. Her daughter was born three months ago. She weighed eight and a half pounds and was named Willow.

Around the time of Willow's birth, Tina's foster family came to the difficult decision they could no longer serve as foster parents. Still dealing with post-partum depression, Tina had to relocate to a new foster home and make her place in a new school. For someone so young who has already lost so much this was a difficult blow. However, the family Tina is with now has fostered for many years and is in fact a second-generation foster family. They also have adoptive children and are now beginning the process to adopt Tina.

Tina's greatest wish is to have a permanent family that loves her and she is on her way to having that wish come true!

CFS Pregnancy Counseling Program, January 2009.



Thank you for taking the time to read this Child and Family Services success story. For information regarding how you can help support CFS programs, please call 231.946.8975 or email garanki@cfsmail.org.