



Real Children Real Hope

My name is Kirsten. I was born on October 31, 1986 in New Orleans, Louisiana. My Parents are no longer together. They still try to maintain a positive relationship for me. My parents didn't relate as well as they thought they did. My father was very abusive towards my mother throughout their marriage. They were on drugs for the first three years of my life. My mother stopped when she got pregnant with my sister. My father and I have a positive open relationship, but he lives far away. My relationship with my mother is very complicated but still very open and happy. I am not able to live with her for a lot of reasons. I love both of my parents. All of my siblings get on my nerves, but I love them all very much and would do anything for them.

We moved to Florida when I was about 11 or 12 years old. I finished school here. Throughout life, I've learned that you can't waste time sitting around waiting. When life throws those curve balls at you, you've got to try and dodge them and stay focused. I look forward to making a better life for my son and me. A lot of built up stress, anger and misery brought me here to become a positive, healthy, and successful person.

I came to Villages of Hope in August of 2009. Before I came here, I was living in my car with my two year old son. I feel more at ease now that my son and I have a roof over our heads. I am grateful to have come across Villages of Hope. I do not know where we would have been without them.



Dear friend,

Thank you so much for your commitment to helping the youth we care for to feel safe and to heal. You are truly providing Kirsten with an opportunity to obtain success. More importantly, you are helping her to lay the foundation to teach her son about being responsible, working hard and reaching goals. As a parent, there is no greater joy than to know that your kids are being provided for in a safe environment. Villages of Hope gives Kirsten the opportunity to strive for a better life for her and her young son. Please pray that God will continue to touch and save these young lives.

With gratitude,

Charles L. Bender III
Founding Executive Director

