

STORIES OF MIRIAM'S PROMISE

Scarlett wrote five letters to local agencies from her jail cell. One of those letters came to Miriam's Promise. When the counselor visited Scarlett in jail, she learned that her visit was the only response made to Scarlett's cry for help. Scarlett learned during an entry medical exam that she was pregnant and desperately needed someone to talk with about the pregnancy and the future of this child. Pre-natal care is difficult to receive in jail, delivery can be a nightmare. With the help of her counselor, Scarlett explored her options, learned about her pregnancy and delivered a healthy baby boy with her counselor by her side. Our work with Scarlett led to requests for additional services in the jail, resulting in the "Expecting the Best" program for incarcerated pregnant females.

Jill was already struggling to provide a stable home for her 3 year old daughter when she learned she was pregnant. Her daughter's father had disappeared soon after she was born. Jill's own father was never present in her life. Now she faced the possibility of another child growing up without a dad. She felt supported and cared for by her mother but knew as a single parent, she was stretched beyond her financial and emotional means. She struggled for months with a plan for the new baby that was coming soon. She received intensive counseling and loving support from her counselor at Miriam's Promise and eventually chose a loving and open adoptive family for her new baby.

Hannah was born in the Philippines and abandoned at the hospital. After trying to locate her mother, hospital officials turned her over to foster care when she was 30 days old. As an abandoned child in the Philippines, she was lucky to have individual care rather than being placed in a government run orphanage. At 19 months of age, Hannah was cleared for adoption and a referral was made to one of our families. Her name listed on her referral record was "Aileen" which was the same as her new mom-to-be. Unfortunately, the effects of 9/11 slowed the adoption process. Hannah finally joined her adoptive parents after her 2nd birthday. She is now an adored and beautiful pre-teen, enjoying all the benefits of growing up in a family.

Tina was 24 with 3 young children and pregnant when she was evicted from her apartment. With the eviction, she learned the money she was giving to her soon-to-be-ex husband was not being used to pay rent but was being used for drugs. When she called Miriam's Promise, her counselor went into action. The staff and volunteers rounded up household items and furniture and made sure Tina and her 3 children had a safe place to live. She also found a supportive environment to explore decisions for her future and ways to care for her family.

