

The summer of 2001, I realized I was pregnant and spent the entire summer thinking about how I was going to bring the news to my family and how I was going to continue with my goals which at the time were to finish high school.

When school finally started, I was a pregnant teen who was kicked out from home but managed to start my sophomore year in high school. As the pregnancy progressed, I was introduced to the program within The Children's Center at Morton East High School. I immediately approached them to figure out how I could be active and received care for my son upon being born. As a naïve teen who had no clue about anything the staff was incredible and guided me through everything however, everything turned magical when my son became active in the program.

Every person that my son and I interacted with in The Children's Center left nothing but positive marks in our life. The staff besides providing us with excellent care also assists and encourages the teen parents to not have limits. Their lessons not only helped me graduate and maintain good grades in high school but also follow me into my current life. It is because of their support and guidance that I feel I was able to conquer this world with a child at a young age but I also feel that my current success is thanks to each employee at The Children's Center.

Thanks to them, I was able to graduate from high school, college, and even the university. Yes, I might have left them years ago, however, they taught me valuable lessons that have followed my son and I throughout the years which have made our life easier. The Children's Center is not only a regular daycare but in reality is a place full of hope and expectations that lead to life changes in many children and teen parents.

- Berenice Galvez-Soto