

GENESIS

Opening doors and
supporting new families.

Katie's Story

Although she got pregnant at the age of 19 – not as young as many other GENESIS participants – Katie still felt lost and hopeless. “We had no idea what to do, how to be parents or do anything,” she said. Things turned around after Katie’s first WIC appointment where she met Laura from the GENESIS Program. After hearing how old Katie was, Laura suggested she participate in the program. Since then, Katie knew things would get better. “I was very nervous at first, but Patty (her parent educator) explained everything very easily.”

“I was offered a lot of support and was introduced to many resources I didn’t know existed,” Katie said. One of those resources was a child birth class. “I wouldn’t have gone if I wasn’t part of GENESIS.”

GENESIS helped Katie feel connected with girls her age. “Since all of my friends weren’t pregnant, it was hard to hang out with them and do 19-year-old stuff,” she said. Having a sense of belonging gave Katie a support system that included emotional support.

Katie was able to finish her studies and received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Colorado at Denver.

She now works for Boulder County IMPACT as a wraparound youth support partner. “I was arrested at age 15 and in probation because I dealt with substance abuse and mental health issues,” said Katie. Her career supports youth who are in similar situations. She makes sure they have a voice in meetings with their therapists, probation officers, etc.

Katie is now happily married to her baby’s father. They do not plan on having any more children; they feel happy and complete with their daughter, Rhyleigh.



“GENESIS has helped me become a better parent. Even after I was done with GENESIS, they would be there to answer any questions I had. They helped me with my confidence level.”



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