

Victoria Morales.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity of giving this testimony to support the work of The Connection's Supportive Housing for Families Program.

I entered the Supportive Housing for Families Program on October 24th, 2019. I have 5 children 12, 11, 8, 3 and 1. At the time that I came into the program, I just received an eviction notice and was at risk of having to go to a shelter with my five children. After being evicted, I stayed with my mother, who lived in the same building, and the landlord filed an eviction on her as well since I was not supposed to be living there. Shortly after my first meeting with my Case Manager, she showed me an apartment and I was able to move into the apartment on December 4th, 2019. This helped me with my DCF case which closed a couple of months after being housed.

Since beginning the program, I have been working weekly with my Case Manager on reaching the goals that I always wanted to work on and taking the steps to become self-sufficient. I appreciated the efforts that has been put in place to assist me with achieving my goals. My Case Manager helped me with budgeting, connected me with community resources for food and utility assistance, helped me to apply for cash assistance, transportation to attend appointments, apply for a Section 8 voucher, assistance in registering for my drug and alcohol course so I could apply for a driver's permit, and taking GED classes online. I was able to receive a Section 8 voucher and my Case Manager assisted me in finding another apartment in Meriden. I was able to use my Section 8 voucher on May 5th, 2020 in an area where my supports are and where my children can meet with their medical providers.

I appreciate all of the support I received from my Case Manager and the program. If it wasn't for this program, I would not have made it to where I am now. Again, I would like to thank you for your continued support of this program.