



## Positive Stories

- ◆ KVC youth had a guardianship completed after being in care for two years.
- ◆ A foster parent has decided to provide permanency (guardianship) for a youth that has been placed with her for four years.
- ◆ A Family Permanency Specialist (FPS) returned children home a few weeks after the mother gave birth to another child. The FPS made an individualized plan for the mother to ensure she was supported in the home, as she has suffered with Postpartum Depression (PPD) severely with her previous children. The judge commented on the approach KVC took with this family, as she had not seen such an individualized plan for a family before.
- ◆ 3b case closed successfully after over a year. A child was out of home for over six months. He completed day treatment and was mainstreamed back into school. Since then, he has completed the football season, and is working on a successful wrestling season. The family continues individual and family therapy. The child has a close bond with his former foster family, and since then, KVC was able to place him near his family and he communicates with them often: He and his sister, who was not a state ward, spent Christmas Eve at the foster parents' home because the biological parents were in the hospital after the father had a successful brain surgery operation. The child also volunteer coaches the younger foster son's league football team.
- ◆ Child was removed from home in July 2010 and placed in KVC foster home. The Family Permanency Specialist identified a kinship placement (maternal grandparents) with whom she moved in October 2010. Permanency goal was changed from reunification to guardianship at the first review hearing in December. Guardianship was finalized in January 2011.
- ◆ Child was placed in foster care in July, after briefly staying at CAPS, then a shelter for making suicidal statements, not attending school, and not following any of the rules at home. He is now receiving all passing grades at his high school, thrived in the foster home, is respecting adults, and wants to go to college. He and his dad have gotten very close, spending lengthy visits and therapy sessions together, and he says he misses his family.
- ◆ OJS ward that has a history of 3 MIP's (Minor in Possession) and a theft, has completed all of her programs and treatment successfully, graduating high school in December and is enrolled in school at University Nebraska at Kearney to start in the fall and will go into their Law Program. Her wardship closed in November.

- ◆ Parent has had an open case with DHHS since 2008. In June of 2010, two of her children were returned to her home. Over the next few months, the mother worked tirelessly to maintain consistency and structure in her home. In July of 2010, the mother celebrated two years of sobriety. A plan was submitted to court to include aftercare involvement and the case was closed successfully.
- ◆ Aftercare Specialist worked with a mother since July to get her in inpatient treatment and to find a place for her children to live. The KVC worker also worked at allowing the children to see their mother while she was in treatment. In November of 2010, the mother graduated from treatment and was also nominated President of a group that is related to Blue Valley that assists with resources in the community and helping families.
- ◆ An OJS youth was living with her stepfather and was reluctantly participating in supervised visits with her mother. Due to her strained relationship with her mother, she would not even discuss the option of returning home. She received a MIP (Minor in Possession) and asked to go to inpatient chemical dependency treatment. She completed the program while improving her relationship with her mother. She is now living at home and enjoying a substance free senior year of high school and is on track to graduate in May 2011. Weekly visits from her Family Preservation Specialist, the support from her Chemical Dependency Program, her AA attendance, support of her sponsor, along with her own effort and her family's effort, played a part in her case closing in December 2010.