

Meet *Gina

Gina was sexually abused by a day care provider for several years before she even started school. As a young teen, she was abused by an extended family member. Gina became very untrusting and angry. She survived by trying to control all those things that she could control. She often lied. She became an artful manipulator to try to get other people to do what she wanted them to do. One of the things that Gina could control was what she ate. She controlled her food intake until her anorexia threatened her life. She fell behind in school; she quit trying. Like many Crossroad kids, Gina was in other places before she arrived at what would literally and figuratively be a Crossroad in her life. She had been in two psychiatric hospitals and one other facility like Crossroad before she came to us.

Gina made many changes in her life after she came to Crossroad. She learned to build better relationships with others, realizing that not every one will victimize her and some people are deserving of her trust. Gina struggled in school but staff encouraged her to try again every time she wanted to give up. Last year, she was graduated from high school here on our campus. Standing in front of a room of her teenage peers, she spoke without embarrassment or restraint. She spoke directly to her family that was present and to those Crossroad staff members who had helped her in her journey. She called each person by name, looked them squarely in the eye, and shared one meaningful thing that they had done to help her heal. Her messages were messages of love, gratitude, and forgiveness. Tears flowed throughout the room. Staff members left with the gift of being valued and being reminded why they come to work every day. Gina left with an education which she described as "one thing that no one can ever take away from me."

*Names have been changed to protect the identity of the child



Meet *Jake

It's fun to look backward when someone succeeds. It's harder to look forward when the child is new and the obstacles seem so large. Meet one of our newer residents. Jake is only seven years old. He was born with cocaine in his system. The Department of Child Services removed him from his Mother shortly after his birth. He has been adopted by new parents, full of anticipation of having the child they always wanted. Sadly, as Jake has grown older his problems have gotten so big that his adoptive parents desperately need help with him. Jake has mild mental retardation and also appears to have some similar emotional problems as his biological parents. He hears voices telling him to do things. He hits and kicks other children. He has been aggressive with his teacher. Before he came to Crossroad, he stabbed a classmate with a pair of scissors. At seven years old, Jake had already been in a psychiatric hospital 3 times. He now lives in Crossroad's Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility.

What lies ahead for Jake? How will we help him function better in his life? Will the outcome be as good for Jake as it was for Gina? It's too early to tell. But, be assured that we'll try. And try. And try.

Crossroad's vision statement assures that we are "Creating positive futures for children ó whatever it takes." With your help, we can positively change the futures for young people.

Thank you for your prayers and your gifts!
They are crucial and we are grateful.