



Stories of CHANGE

Ben's Story

Childcare Resources' employees and volunteers often meet clients in the field who tell stories about how their lives were changed because of the programs and services the agency provides at low or no cost to clients. Here is one such story:

Ben was two years old when his mother, Veronica, was working in a minimum wage job. She could barely make ends meet much less support a toddler. She hadn't attended college and had little hope of ever improving life for herself and her little boy. Veronica searched for a way to give her son a brighter future. Even though she worked for a highly respected local company with good benefits, there was no assistance with the cost of child care. Then one day she learned about Childcare Resources' Supplemental Child Care Program (SCCP).

"When I applied and found out I had been approved – I cannot express how I felt! I was able to put my son in QUALITY, affordable day care! I could work without worrying about my baby!" Ben was enrolled in a quality child care program and gained skills and knowledge which gave him an advantage when he began kindergarten. Music, Spanish and swimming were part of his weekly curriculum at child care – all because he was part of the SCCP program. By the time Ben reached kindergarten... "He not only knew his address and the personal information of his entire immediate family, he had early reading and math skills and could write his name! Had it not been for Childcare Resources, Ben would not have been afforded those many opportunities!"

Ben built on this strong foundation excelling in elementary school, junior high and high school – all while continuing with his music education which he had begun in child care. He participated in extracurricular music programs in the



Ben and Veronica celebrated his graduation from high school in 2007

community and ultimately won a music scholarship to an out-of-state college! His college career was put on hold when as a member of the National Guard he was deployed to Afghanistan. But he returned home, completed his degree and is now enrolled in law school.

"Many of his accomplishments are absolutely attributed to the fact that Childcare Resources' financial assistance program allowed me to send my son to a quality learning facility during his formative years where he was safe and loved!"

Our clients' successes motivate the Childcare Resources' team to work even harder to *make quality child care available and affordable to all families who need it*. Ben's accomplishments are evidence of the impact that quality child care can have on our next generation.