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I joined Florence Crittenton's Home Visiting program about six months ago. I am a single father of twins that are three years old and have had a very challenging time in a lot of ways. I had been incarcerated for charges that were later dismissed but had struggled with substance use and relapsed and was on probation. While I was incarcerated for nine months my children were placed in foster care which was horrible. I was determined to work on getting my kids back and my Child & Family Services worker recommended I work with a home visitor as part of my treatment plan.

My home visitor Jen has been great, she has taught me about my children's health, development, play activities, safety in my home, bedtime routines, and mealtimes. The biggest help has been her advocating for me and helping me work my treatment plan in a more flexible way. I am a single dad, working full time, attending counseling and trying to be a good father so doing some of the sessions remotely was a lot easier for me. When I was feeling overwhelmed, she helped me work through things so it felt more manageable. She has been a huge advocate for me and helped with my foster review meeting which I am very grateful for. She gives me encouragement, constructive criticism, good ideas and nudges me to be a better father.

I now have reunified with my children. I am so grateful that they are

with me and no matter how hard it is to be a single dad I wouldn't trade it for the world. They are doing great in school and are happy and healthy and I appreciate every day with them. I feel more confident in my abilities to be a good dad.

The most important thing that I learned through all of this is that you need to ask for help and you need to get support. With the help of my addictions counselor, my home visitor, and even the jail sergeants that have become great friends, I am proof that having a team of support helps families stay together. I am now working full time doing street outreach helping other people who are struggling. I love my job and I am proud to say that I am 18 months sober and the proud father to two awesome kids.



"Just last week someone wished me Happy Mother's Day to recognize that I am a mom to my kids as well as a dad. I am willing to do everything I can to raise my kids but I thought that was really cool!"

RYAN