



Finding a Fresh Start

Healthy Families Program Helps Family Find A Place of Their Own

New parents Garrett and Danielle had everything they wanted when they welcomed their happy, healthy baby girl Eillyanna into their lives. Everything except for a place of their own to raise her. They were living with Garrett's parents, his younger brother and his niece and nephew in a small home in Baxter Springs, about 20 miles from where Garrett was working part time in Columbus.

Without reliable transportation, Garrett risked losing his job if they didn't find a place to live in Columbus. A few months before Eillyanna was born, they started meeting with Tina Hartley of KCSL's Healthy Families program in Southeast Kansas and told her about their need to find a place of their own. "Tina looked into a lot of programs for us and then told us about a place that was close to the store I was working at," said Garrett. "She was able to get us an appointment with the landlord, who hooked us up with an apartment right away."

Garrett and Danielle got the place and moved in a couple of months ago. "Healthy Families helped us to get a fresh start," said Garrett. "They helped us find a place of our own, and my job hired me on full time. We also enjoy the ideas we get for Eillyanna. The games and information helps her to learn more – and helps us to learn more too."

Through Healthy Families, Tina was also able to secure the couple's deposit, a couch and other household items and their first month of rent. The Family Resource Center in Pittsburg supplied them with an outdoor activity set, including a swing and slide, for Eillyanna to play on in the yard. "Garrett and Danielle are so excited to have a place of their own and I am so proud of them," said Hartley. "They are dedicated to Eillyanna and dedicated to going back to school to get their high school diplomas."



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