

# COMMUNITY LINC

C • O • N • N • E • C • T • I • O • N • S

*Developing self-sufficient communities  
& families for more than 20 years*



## “Where So Many Call Home”

“How could we be here?” thought Charlotte. “How could we bring our new baby home to live in a motel?” This was the horrifying experience that Charlotte lived through just seven short months ago.

Charlotte and Robert were both hard workers with one child. Robert worked seasonal jobs in landscaping and construction and Charlotte had worked for Lake City Army Ammunition Plant for nearly five years. Life was good, or so they thought. They had just found a house in Buckner and lived life like many other Americans ... paycheck to paycheck. With Robert’s seasonal work, it was hard to put money away in savings, but they put what they could in both savings and a 401k account.

Charlotte and Robert were both gainfully employed. They had moved into their first rental home when Charlotte found out she was pregnant with their second child. With this pregnancy, she had medical problems and began to miss work. Charlotte was an easy target when layoffs started at Lake City. About two months into her pregnancy, she was let go. In the next month, Robert was also laid off. Within two months, their world



began to crumble. Month after month went by, and they became further and further behind.

Unable to pay their rent, the landlord began the eviction process. Charlotte and Robert had to appear in court. They were given 14 days to move. They knew this was the beginning of the end. They had a yard sale and sold everything they could. They kept only what would fit in their car.

Pregnant and homeless, Charlotte moved

with her son, Noah, and her husband to a motel. Robert accepted labor-ready daily jobs in an effort to keep them in a shelter, where they stayed until baby Rowan’s birth in June, 2011. They had enough money for one more week. When that week was up, Charlotte and the children moved in with family, and Robert stayed with friends. After two months, Charlotte cashed out her pension so they could be together until funds ran out again.

Feeling helpless, they stayed in a motel

*continued on page 2*

# Message from Board Chair

by Susan Thomas

one more night. The following day, they met with Social Services. They were granted emergency overnight help and were placed at the Crossroads Shelter in Independence, MO. The family stayed at Crossroads for two months. Their counselor then introduced them to Community LINC. After their initial interview and homework, they were accepted into the program.

The family entered Community LINC in January, 2012. "The happiest part for me is knowing that Rowan now has a home," said Charlotte. "It broke my heart that the only home she had ever known was a motel!"

Robert and Charlotte enjoy the program. They are working hard. They love learning in all of the budgeting and life skills classes. Things are looking up ... Robert recently secured employment at \$14 an hour, and Charlotte just enrolled in Certified Nurse's Aide classes.

## Missouri N.A.P. TAX CREDITS available on a first come first serve basis!

Did you know you can make your charitable dollars stretch further by using Missouri State Tax Credits for contributions to Community LINC?

Missouri tax credits are easy to use. Eligible donors receive a state income tax credit for 50% of the value of a donation made to Community LINC that can be used for up to four years.

### To qualify you must meet one of these objectives:

- Own a Missouri business
- Own a Missouri rental property
- Own a farm in Missouri

For more information, contact Teresa at [tmclain@communitylinc.org](mailto:tmclain@communitylinc.org) or at 816-595-5553.



It is an honor and a privilege to be the Board Chair for Community LINC. I have been a member of the Board of Directors for the past six years, and have served as the Board Chair since 2010. The transformation of Community LINC, since 2006, has been amazing and Community LINC has raised their awareness in the greater Kansas City area.

We have created strong partnerships with private and corporate donors who have made it possible for us to repair our aging buildings, improve the programs that we offer our adult residents, and expand the support to our

resident children. For the past two years, Community LINC has exceeded its fundraising goals which have created an opportunity for us to have a reserve fund. Can you believe that? It is amazing to think that six years ago when I joined the board, we worked very hard to try to stay on par with our expenses. Because of our partnership with corporations, churches, and individuals, we have been able to create a safety net for the future.

That is the good news, however, the troubled economy has created different challenges that impact Community LINC and our ability to meet our mission. Community LINC's mission, "To end homelessness, impact poverty, and remove barriers to self-sufficiency for the families we serve," is greatly compromised by the changing dynamics of our troubled economy. Government funding at all levels continues to decline, and we have been told that we should expect little to no funding this year. While we have been blessed with an increase in private donations, it will be compromised with a decrease from our government sources.

Our residents are competing for jobs with unemployed, skilled workers. In 2011, families were the fastest growing population of the homeless in the United States. At any given time, we have more than 75 families on our waiting list, waiting for a chance to be accepted into our program. It truly breaks my heart to know that we have a program proven to change the lives of the families we serve, especially the children, yet, we are unable to serve all of the families that need us. Our ability to serve is compromised by limited funding and limited space at our facilities. Our decision to expand our program to help more people is driven by a sense of urgency. We can meet the mission of Community LINC, and we can positively impact our communities by developing self-sufficient residents who will be in the position one day to give back to their community.

This past week, I had the opportunity to meet a young couple with two darling children who moved into Community LINC in January 2012. Both had lost their jobs while mom was expecting their baby daughter. They could have been a young couple at McDonald's, enjoying a Happy Meal with their kids. Instead, they were homeless with a three year old boy and a baby girl. They shared their Thanksgiving Day experience with me: When their car broke down while trying to get to a family dinner, they were weeping together in total despair. As I listened to their story, I cried too. It reminded me of my duty to serve those less fortunate than me, and it filled my heart with hope that together, we can change the face of homelessness.

# Removing Barriers to Self Sufficiency

by Laura Gray

2011 was a complex year for Community LINC.

Thanks to our donors, the Rent Party raised more than ever before. We were able

to make some needed building repairs. We began to comprehend the building repairs that are still needed (the bad news), assessed our program performance (the good news), and developed a strategic plan to guide us through 2014.

But the U.S. poverty rate was the highest since 1993, and our waiting list averaged more than 70 families each month. Our families did not share in any of the economic recovery. The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's 4th quarter 2011 Low and Moderate Income Survey (LMI) confirms that "the financial status of the LMI community continues to deteriorate." Well-paying jobs are still few and far between, and our residents often lack the skills to compete effectively for those jobs. Affordable housing is still in short supply, with the wait time for subsidized housing increasing to five years.

Despite all of the barriers, about 70% of our families left for permanent homes in 2011. The 38 families who exited saved an astounding average of \$1,500 apiece. Moreover, the cumulative increase in taxable earnings of the families who have left since 2007 exceeded \$600,000 and the decrease in public assistance was almost \$200,000.

Our families are successful because we screen for people both willing and able to make a life change and then equip them for independence and self-sufficiency. Our new mission statement says it all –



"to end homelessness, impact poverty, and remove the barriers to self-sufficiency for the families we serve."

Each year, I'm inspired by everyone I encounter through Community LINC – the families who have committed to a life change, the staff who have made this mission their lives, the volunteers who give their time for people they have never met, and the donors willing to give strangers a proverbial "hand up." In 2012, we will pilot two new programs to extend our services to more families and serve that extensive waiting list. I hope that you will once again be a part of this meaningful mission.

## VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

In 2011, volunteers donated nearly 7,400 hours, or \$163,610 in services to Community LINC.

Join our team! Our success depends on the partnership between our volunteers, families, and our staff. Through this partnership, we fight against poverty and social injustice. Making an impact may not take as much time as you think!

### Opportunities Include:

- Apartment Helpers
- Children's Program
- Budgeters and Adult Program
- Small and Large Group Projects
- Professional Committee

### Why volunteer with Community LINC?

- Develop relationships you will never forget
- Teach skills and provide necessary resources
- Encourage change and hope in the lives of our families and our community
- Give guidance and input to improve Community LINC
- Dispel existing myths about poverty and homelessness

### Become part of the team:

Volunteers come to Community LINC on a search to help others, meet people, and use their skills, talents, and experience. Do you have special skills or talents you would like to share? We are always looking for new ways to further enrich our program.

Email Kimberly at [volunteer@communitylinc.org](mailto:volunteer@communitylinc.org) to learn more!

# Generosity

- Last year, over \$36,000 of in-kind goods were donated to support our children and their parents!
- 32 families were adopted in 2011 for Christmas with an in-kind value of approximately \$16,000!
- Over 150 donations were auctioned at our Rent Party valuing \$57,500!

3 Women and an Oven  
American Jazz Museum  
Amy and Marc Hawkinson  
Angie and Brad Gaebler  
Barbara Peterson  
Barnes & Noble - Zona Rosa  
Becky Crowl  
Belle Epoque  
Ben Davis  
Black Archives of Mid-America  
Bonefish Grill  
Capital Grille  
Carl and Violet Rice  
Carol Bliss  
Christina Dawson  
Christy and Jay Roach  
College Basketball Experience  
Cookies by Design  
Coterie Theatre  
Country Club Plaza  
Daryl & Camille Benedict  
David & Kathy Campbell  
David Martin  
Debbie Hoskovec  
Deborah Dean  
Deborah Fleck  
Debra and Michael Walls  
Dennis Bell  
Dr. Phil  
Elizabeth and James Hansen  
Eye Associates  
Fiorella's Jack Stack Barbecue  
FishNet Security, Inc.  
Frank Garver  
Gerry Barrett  
Hilton President Kansas City  
Hyatt Regency Crown Center  
Ida's

Intercontinental Hotel  
Jackson County CASA  
Jaegers Laser Tag  
Jazz: A Louisiana Kitchen  
Jean Coupal-Smith  
Jeffrey Bredemeier  
Jessica Peryam  
Jill Adams and Jon Goodman  
Jim Phillips  
John and Lisa Tootle  
Jose Pepper's/Cactus Grill  
Justin & Ashley Dean  
Kansas City Ballet  
Kansas City Repertory Theatre  
Kansas City Royals  
Kansas City Symphony  
Kansas City Zoo  
Karen and Hank Herrmann  
Kathy and Larry Baldwin  
Kenneth Waite  
Kerri Draper  
Kevin and Carey Cannell  
Kimono Art Studio  
Larry Wallace  
Larson Financial Services, INC.  
Lindsay and Brian Brechler  
Lisa Dunbar and John Lewis  
Liz Foley  
Lori Barorh  
Lyndsay Siffen  
Lynn R Pannell  
Margaret M. Root  
Marquetta Broome  
Mary Ann Bostwick  
Mary Thomas  
Meers Marketing Communications  
Mi Ranchito Family  
Michael Vande Brake

Michelle Sabo  
Mike and Patty Daly  
Mona Selby  
Monte & Holly Lull  
National WWI Museum  
Negro Leagues Baseball Museum  
Nikki Newton  
Norma Boyer  
Northstar Restaurants, Inc.  
Overland Limo  
Paradise Park  
Plaza III  
Powell Gardens  
Prairiebrooke Arts  
Rebecca and Robert Kline  
Reimer Family Foundation  
Rita Tiehen  
Ronda and Carl Kent  
Ryan Lawn & Tree  
S. Bruce Millon  
Sally's Organizing Service  
Scott Francis  
Sharon and Joe Weinrich  
Shirley Clarke  
Stacie Cronberg  
Susan Gordon  
Susan Thomas  
TC Dance Club  
The Roasterie  
The Rub  
Tommy Faris  
Turner Pettway  
Two Chic Blvd.  
US Bank  
Waddell & Reed Financial, Inc.  
Waldo Pizza  
Wesley and Vivian Buckner



**Save the date!**

On Saturday, **October 6th**, Community LINC will celebrate the 2012 Rent Party at the Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center. This year's theme is **"STOMP Out Homelessness!"**

This is the party you don't want to miss!  
The evening features great food, silent and incredible live auction items, and entertainment to benefit Community LINC.

**Our goal is to raise \$500,000, and with your help, we can achieve it!**

For sponsorship information or to donate an auction item, contact Teresa at [tmclain@communitylinc.org](mailto:tmclain@communitylinc.org).

# Thank You for Supporting Community LINC in 2011!

## \$100,000 & above

Greater KC LINC, INC.  
Hall Family Foundation  
HUD II - City of KCMO Finance  
Department

## \$50,000 to \$99,999

Bart N. Miller  
Bayer  
CDBG  
Karen & Hank Herrmann  
Operation Breakthrough - HPRP  
Account  
Second Presbyterian Church  
William T. Kemper Foundation

## \$25,000 to \$49,999

Health Care Foundation of  
Greater Kansas City  
Reimer Family Foundation  
State Street Foundation

## \$10,000 to \$24,999

Children's Trust Fund - State of  
MO  
Country Club Christian Church  
Curry Family Foundation  
DST Systems, Inc.  
H&R Block Foundation  
Hallmark Corporate Foundation  
Jackson County Missouri - HRC  
James 2 Charitable Foundation  
Jewish Heritage Foundation  
Kimberley & Nikki Newton  
Mason L. Dean Foundation  
Richard C. Maida  
St. Thomas More Parish  
Swiss Reinsurance Company  
Waddell & Reed Financial, Inc.

## \$5,000 - \$9,999

American Century Investments  
Foundation  
Amy Scupham Hoile  
Atonement Lutheran Church  
Cosentino's Foundation  
Debra & Michael Walls  
Enterprise Holdings Foundation

Enterprise Leasing Company of  
KS, LLC  
Josh Landy  
MacFarlane Group  
Massman Foundation  
Meritage Portfolio Management,  
Inc.  
QC Holdings  
Robbie Manufacturing  
State Street Corporation  
The Village Church  
Toni & Phil Sanders  
UPS Foundation  
US Bank  
William G. McGowan Charitable  
Fund, Inc.  
Willowbrook Partners

## \$2,500 to \$4,999

Assurant Employee Benefits  
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of  
Kansas City  
Bonnie & Herb Buchbinder  
Catalyst Consulting Group  
Christi & Ronald L. Deaver  
Country Club Bank  
Cynthia & Cary Fox  
Don Harbin Family Fund  
Fahey Family Foundation  
Garmin  
Grant Thornton, LLP  
Griffin Wheel  
Hugh McKinnis  
Husch Blackwell Sanders  
Ira & Florita M. Brady  
Foundation  
Jane & Bob Berryhill  
Junior League of Kansas City  
Kansas Gas Service  
Kevin Deal  
Leslie Fields  
Lisa & Greg Bernard  
Lisa & Vercie Lark  
Mark Curry  
Marleen & Ron Gold  
Michael Luxenberg  
Miller Nichols Charitable  
Foundation

Missy Bruhn & Brad Korris  
Morgan Family Foundation  
Online Advance  
Peter & Denise Anderson  
Robert F. & Nancy R. Banker  
Charitable Fund  
Tanya & John Lannon  
Theresa & Charles Connealy  
Thomas Butch  
Tom & Mary Beth Butch  
US Bancorp Foundation

## \$1,000 to \$2,499

ACE Cash Express  
Alison & Steve Paddock  
Andrew & Courtney Fahey  
Ann Fitzpatrick  
Anne & Chace Brundige  
Anonymous Donor  
AVNET  
Blue Scope Steel Foundation  
Bo & Bill Stueck  
Carol & Tim Dykman  
Cecil R. Miller Trust  
Chris Carson  
Claudia Callaway  
Constance & Frederick  
DeSieghardt  
Cynthia & Donal Schmitt  
David & Cathy Evers  
Debbie & Neil Bass  
Diane & Brad Yeater  
Dorothy & Jim Christiansen  
Great North Consulting  
Great Western Bank  
Greg Porter  
Harold & Marilyn Melcher  
Foundation  
Heartland Combined Federal  
Campaign  
Homelessness Trust Fund  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Jean Cullom  
Jeff Dykstra  
Jennifer & Greg Payne  
Jenny & Casey Housley  
Jetz Service Co.  
Jill & Jerry Esfeld

JoAnne & Brick Owens  
John Knox Presbyterian Kirk  
Joyce Miller  
Julie & William Miller  
Kansas Racquetball Association  
Karen & Ed Lare  
Kay & John Callison  
Kellie & Jeffrey Bryan  
Kent Ummel  
Knox United Presbyterian  
Church  
Kori Hubbard  
KPMG  
Laura Gray  
Lead Flash, LLC  
Lindsay & Ryan Sullivan  
Lisa & Chris Angelotti  
Lockton Company, Employee  
Benefits Division  
Lynn Adelmund  
Margie & Eric Dyck  
Matt Daly  
Matthew Baehr  
Matthew Kirk  
Michele Chollet & Dan Devine  
Patricia & John Kern  
Randy & Diana Foster  
Raymond Cattaneo  
Rebecca & Robert Kline  
Sogeti USA LLC  
Southminster Presbyterian  
Church  
Sue & Greg Monaghan  
Susan Thomas  
Suzy & David Spiler  
Tantillo Family Foundation  
Target  
The Standard Employee Giving  
Campaign  
The Tiehen Group  
Tracey & Steve Anderson  
Visitation Church  
Wal-Mart Foundation

## \$500 to \$999

There are so many of you! Thank  
you to many generous friends!

## 2012 Board of Directors

Kent Cable

### Vice Chair

Angie Makkyla

Raymond Cattaneo

John Mitchell

Stacie Cronberg

### Second Vice Chair

Nikki Newton

Blaine Degnan

Greg Payne

Brad Korris

### Secretary

Greg Porter

### President

Susan Thomas

### Former Resident

Calvin Ward

## Staff Leadership Team

### CEO/Executive Director

Laura Gray

### Associate Executive Director

Teresa McClain

### Accountant & Business Manager

JoAnne Owens

### Senior Director of Programming & Operations

Jeannine Short

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	UNAUDITED*	
	12/31/2011	40,543
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	323,268	301,283
Cash temporarily restricted for buildings and programs	360,927	161,708
Grants, contributions and contracts receivable	97,701	83,258
Other current assets	13,460	4,950
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>795,356</b>	<b>551,199</b>
Property & Equipment, Net	1,067,395	909,778
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,862,750</b>	<b>1,460,976</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>		
Current Liabilities	34,732	56,088
Long-Term Liabilities	160,208	171,466
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>194,941</b>	<b>227,555</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	1,276,882	1,071,713
Temporarily Restricted	390,927	161,708
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>1,667,810</b>	<b>1,233,422</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>1,862,750</b>	<b>1,460,976</b>

# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	Year ended Dec. 31, 2011			Year ended Dec 31, 2010
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS, REVENUES &amp; OTHER SUPPORT</b>				
Churches and religious organizations	128,649		128,649	45,186
United Way and other non-profit	27,968		27,968	33,292
Corporate donations	114,953		114,953	253,089
Individual contributions	116,619		116,619	145,256
Foundations	367,820		367,820	210,950
Special Events	410,860		410,860	305,214
Food service income, net of expenses	27,725		27,725	35,583
Contract income	1,403		1,403	1,060
Grants - government	658,780		658,780	569,927
<b>Other income</b>	<b>10,945</b>		<b>10,945</b>	<b>14,618</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,865,721</b>		<b>1,865,721</b>	<b>1,614,174</b>
Temporarily restricted contributions	(435,639)	435,639		
<b>NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION</b>	<b>206,420</b>	<b>(206,420)</b>		
	<b>1,636,501</b>	<b>229,219</b>	<b>1,865,721</b>	<b>1,614,174</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Program services	1,092,239		1,092,239	1,011,728
<b>Supporting services</b>				
Fundraising	201,361		201,361	183,651
Administrative	57,802		57,802	81,806
Interest expense	11,508		11,508	12,596
Depreciation	68,324		68,324	62,547
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>338,994</b>		<b>338,994</b>	<b>340,600</b>
	<b>1,431,233</b>		<b>1,431,233</b>	<b>1,352,329</b>
Increase in net assets	205,269	229,219	434,488	261,845
<b>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF PERIOD</b>	<b>1,071,613</b>	<b>161,708</b>	<b>1,233,322</b>	<b>971,476</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF PERIOD</b>	<b>1,276,882</b>	<b>390,927</b>	<b>1,667,810</b>	<b>1,233,322</b>
In-kind not included				

\* Audit pending

2011 Figures obtained from QB 2011 reports (newly pulled) and from Restricted Funds tab on 2011 12 READY FOR AUDIT (version of 2011 financials)

2010 Figures obtained from QB 2010 P&L by class (newly pulled) and from 2010 12 FINAL financials – after audit. The totals were adjusted by \$100 for Bette Croes donation never received.

# TRANSITIONAL SHELTER OUTCOMES ANNUAL REPORT (DRAFT)

Community LINC served over 566 families by providing transitional shelter and outreach programming to stabilizing hundreds of children and their parents.

January 1, 2011–December 31,2011

## FAMILIES SERVED :

Total number of families served in all programs	566
Total number of families	57
Total number of adults	69
Total number of children	125
Approximate number of bed nights	27,326
Average length of stay	7.5

## DEMOGRAPHICS

### Race

White	16	8.0%
Black/African American	166	86.0%
Black/African American & White	11	6.0%

### Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino	6	3.0%
Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino	187	97.0%

### Gender (Adults)

Adult Male	15	21.0%
Adult Female	54	79.0%
Transgender	0	0.0%

## CLIENTS EXITED

Total number of families who exited	38	65.0%
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## PROGRAM OUTCOMES

### Family Impact

Successfully moved to permanent housing	27	71.0%
Families that did not complete the program	12	32.0%

### Adult Programs

#### Life Skills

Adults average life skills ranking score	72%
Adults improving coping skills	58%

#### Employment

Adults employed	59%
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#### Budgeting

Total amount of debt retired	\$27,850.00
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#### Emotional Wellness

Adults improving coping skills	59%
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### Children's Programs

Children showing improved behavior	60%
Children improving academically	73%
Children improving life skills scores	70%

## OTHER

Number of telephone inquiries/crisis calls	2543
Total number of new applicants	255
Average number on waiting list	73

## FIVE YEAR RETENTION RATE

Of those families who exited for permanent housing from 2007–2011

Remained permanently housed (graduates)	80%
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Of the 180+ families who left from 2007 through 2011 they increased taxable income by \$626,000 and a decreased public assistance by \$194,000 (a combined impact of \$820,000).

## OUTREACH PROGRAMS

### HPRP PROGRAM

Total number of new referrals	41
Average number of individuals assisted and stabilized	62

### LINCWorks PROGRAM

Total number of referrals	691
Total number of families assisted with case management and services	487

## Wish List

### Bathrooms

Bath rugs  
Bath Towels  
Wash Cloths

### Bedrooms

New Pillows  
Twin or full sheet sets

### General

Cleaning supplies  
Dust pans  
Halogen light bulbs  
Mops/brooms  
Oven cleaner  
Paper towels  
Toilet paper  
Vacuums

### Kitchen

Coffee pots  
Cookie sheets  
Flatware  
Food storage containers  
Kitchen towels  
Knives  
Measuring cups and spoons  
Microwaves  
Pots/Pans  
Skillets with lids or splatter shields

4012-14 Troost  
Kansas City, Missouri 64110  
p: 816.531.3727  
f: 816.531.4416  
info@communitylinc.org

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KANSAS CITY, MO  
PERMIT 6376

## “A Birthday to Remember”

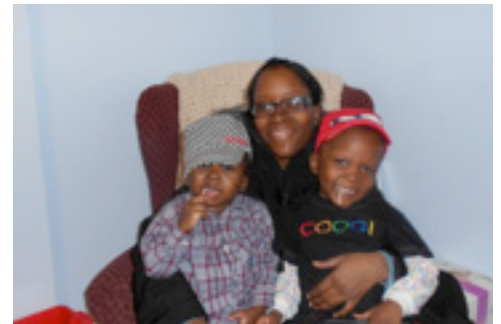
It was no ordinary February day. Chermaine, a young mother of two boys, was ready to celebrate her son, La’Teiz’s, two year birthday. This birthday was extra special because today would be the day that she and her children would celebrate a chance to start a new life. This day was move-in day at Community LINC, and it was the first day of their new journey in life. Tammy, Chermaine’s family coach, walked them over to see their new home. The boys were excited to learn they would have their own bedroom. Seeing the excitement in her sons’ eyes nearly brought Chermaine to tears of joy. Later that night, they had a birthday party for La’Teiz, which turned out to be a much-needed celebration for all of them.

As a young mother of two children, Chermaine was determined to have a better life than she had growing up. Chermaine tried hard and knew that this path meant pursuing a certification in continued education. Chermaine was highly motivated and decided to enroll to become a Certified Nurse’s Assistant. In 2005, she received the CNA Certification through Job Corps.

Chermaine held various jobs in an effort to make a path that would one day provide a home, her own place for her family.

Chermaine grew up in a family of poverty and dreamed of having a better life for herself and her children. Before coming to Community LINC, Chermaine stayed with family members who would kick them out of the house on weekends. Chermaine and her children moved from place to place and walked everywhere they went. With no car, and giving friends and relatives nearly all of her paycheck, she felt the cycle would never end. Defeated and depressed, reality hit Chermaine hard. The weather started to turn cold, and she decided it was time to seek help. Chermaine and her children had spent 2-1/2 years moving from place to place before they found a safe, stable home at Community LINC.

When asked what she thought was the most impactful part of the program, Chermaine said that Tammy, her family coach, had been instrumental in providing the structure and discipline that she did not receive in her



formative years. The classes, counseling, and budgeters have also made a huge impact. She knows that self-sufficiency is the key to breaking out of her current lifestyle.

Chermaine explained that even though her life didn’t quite follow the path she had envisioned, she’s determined to follow her dreams. She plans to learn everything she can while here at Community LINC. She dreams of being a good mother to her sons and finding a place of her own to call “home,” where they can celebrate many more birthdays to come.