

## **Traci's Story**

April, 2009

A Mendocino County, 32 year old pregnant mother was charged with possession of methamphetamine, which she used intravenously. Her 3 children (one 17 -- born when she was 15 years old -- the others younger), were detained by Child Protective Services. She entered the Family Dependency Drug Court with health issues, a history of molest and alcoholic parents, no history of work, homeless, with a tenth grade education, and in a violent relationship. She had been in treatment several times before, without successful completion in any case.

With the help of drug and alcohol counseling and housing assistance, a helpful relationship with CPS and lots of hard work with a therapist and the battered women's shelter, she eventually left her bad relationship, (noting that his ability to fix a car wasn't enough to make her stay). She had her new baby and obtained housing. She got a driver's license, had shoulder surgery, attended family therapy with her children for whom she regained custody (the 17 year old decided to stay with other relatives) and ultimately returned to school. She is now in college, hoping to follow in the path of her CPS worker and become a Social Worker for others, saying, "I want to help other people with these problems. I think I will be able to relate to them, since I've been there myself."