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LIVE WITHOUT FEAR

A Southern Reunion for Isabel

After leaving an abusive home, Isabel arrived at shelter with her 18-month-old son Larry. About six months before she sought shelter, Isabel had moved to Michigan from Florida to be with her husband, Larry's father, in an attempt to make their relationship work.

Isabel chose to leave because she wanted to provide better care for her son, who had been born pre-mature and had several health issues that required surgery, and she didn't want to raise him in a place where his mom was hit all the time.

Isabel shared with us her fight to stay free of the drugs and alcohol she used when things at home became too difficult to handle. She sought the support of staff and other agencies to remain drug and alcohol free and to process the situation with her son.

Staff worked with Isabel to create a safety plan for her trip to the hospital for surgery and the difficult time that would lie ahead. Isabel was clearly determined to put her son and herself first and to keep her family safe. Larry's surgery took place about three weeks into her stay and while he recovered at the hospital,

Isabel spent her free time attending meetings and working on her relocation back to Florida, where her family and friends were. Isabel stayed with Larry until they could both return to shelter and she returned to us very excited about the progress that he had made.

One month, late at night, when Larry was strong enough to travel, Isabel and Larry relocated to Florida. Isabel recently reported that the family is doing well. Larry is walking and talking up a storm, her divorce is final and she and Larry are living in a safe home with section 8 assistance.

To learn more about
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