



JAYLENE'S SUCCESS STORY

Jaylene grew up in Napa and following her parents' divorce became a troubled young adult. For fifteen years of her life she felt like she was drifting without the ability to contribute much to society. At the age of thirty, she moved to Clearlake and her daughter was born a couple of years later. At that time, she became involved with a local church, First Assembly of God in Clearlake, and was baptized. While Jaylene credits this act of faith as the major positive turning point of her life, her daughter's father chose to go a different direction and left her as a single mother without child support, and then two years later he passed away. Lake Family Resource Center's Early Head Start program became a source of encouragement and support for Jaylene and her daughter as their home visitors came regularly to work on the baby's developmental skills while helping Jaylene consider her own path forward by helping her in developing goals and objectives for her future. Jaylene wanted to have a career that would enable her to support her daughter, so she enrolled in Humboldt State University's online Leadership Studies bachelor's degree program. She committed to that goal and the work and effort that it required and will graduate with her bachelor's degree at the end of 2019. While she was working toward her degree, she volunteered on the Board of Directors of Lake County Youth Services in Clearlake and served as the Board Secretary. Recently she was hired as the director of the Youth Center and in February of 2019 Jaylene was awarded with a Live Your Dream award by Soroptimists of Lake County.

IN JAYLENE'S OWN WORDS:

What would you tell other people in Lake County about what is most important to your success?

How would you encourage them? I am still a work in progress. My family and my daughter are very important to my success and Lake Family Resource Center was there when I needed them. I would encourage anyone struggling in Lake County the same way that I try to encourage young adults at the Youth Center; get to the root of your difficulties and deal with those core issues first. Connect with community resources to help you do that – local churches, the Youth Center, and nonprofits.

What kept you from giving up when things were hard? My daughter. She is so beautiful and precious. I can't believe she came from me. Her smile and innocence make me marvel and I want to keep going for her sake.

What are you most looking forward to, now that your life is on a different path and what makes you feel most equipped to keep moving in a positive direction? My future goals include more education in the field of information technology. My faith is what equips me. I could be at my lowest point ever, but I know I won't be left there in that place because of my faith. There is a verse that says, "I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me." There isn't anything that I can't do.