



RANDY'S SUCCESS STORY

A couple of years ago, Randy and was receiving treatment for a terminal cancer diagnosis and was confined to bed while trying to continue parenting his thirteen-year-old son. During that time his wife became violent and abusive. She left but would return periodically with her partner and they would physically abuse both Randy and his son. This was intensely trying for Randy who had spent years of his life as a strong, healthy man who could defend himself, and now finding himself in a position of weakness and unable to protect himself or his son felt humiliating and stressful. It was difficult to find someone who would believe the truth of what he was experiencing and it was difficult to talk about it. Eventually Child Welfare Services and Adult Protective Services were notified of the situation and Randy's situation began to improve. CWS connected Randy to law enforcement and to Lake Family Resource Center. He attended domestic violence support classes and Nurturing Families parenting classes, received support getting an IHSS worker, and had support in navigating the court system to get a divorce, child custody and child support. Randy is now sharing a stable home with four generations of his family and in a better position to focus his attention on parenting well and fighting cancer.

In Randy'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 never knew that Child Welfare Services could help people. They really can help. Lake Family Resource Center helped. Lake County Transit helped by setting up a system where a friend could get gas money to drive me to treatment in Ukiah when I couldn't drive myself. The parenting class helped. The domestic violence class really helped. Just do it. Just ask for help. Don't be afraid.

What kept you from giving up when things were hard? I've known a lot of hard things in my life and I'm not much of a giver-upper. I couldn't let my son grow up in an unhealthy situation. Having people who believed me and believed in me really helped me.

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 main focus is to stay alive and give a good life to my son, but I'm also now an advocate. I've met guys in similar situations to mine and I've been able to relate and give them advice on getting out of abusive relationships. I would just really love to help other people.