



In 2017, Shayna enrolled with Iowa's [FaDSS Program](#), a program run by Four Oaks. Four Oaks' Family Services connected with Shayna to stabilize her situation, help her set goals and connect to the resources she needed. As a single mother, her ability to support herself and her daughter were limited-- but Four Oaks was there to help. During that time that we were able to walk with her, Shayna first worked on setting goals to help her stay on track and be successful in school. Despite the demands of mothering, she continued to work part-time during her schooling. From there, everything grew.

Now, four years later, Shayna recently had this to share:

***January 2017 I was a single mom with a 1 year old. We were sleeping on my aunt's couch with nowhere else to go. Everything we owned fit inside my little car. I didn't have a high school diploma or a job at the time because I didn't have anyone to watch my daughter. I signed up for FIP and that is how I got connected with FaDSS. My worker met me at my lowest point in my life sitting on that couch with a baby and nothing more really. I now feel like I owe all my success to that Family Support Worker. In February 2017 she helped me get into Kirkwood Lifelong Learning Center to get my high school diploma. She helped me get the resources I needed like childcare.***

***April 2017 I successfully got my high school diploma. She helped me get into income based housing so my daughter and I could have a place to call home. In August 2017 she walked with me into Kirkwood Community College and helped me do everything I needed to start. She even came with me to the bookstore and helped me get all the textbooks and laptop I needed to start college. She encouraged me and helped me set goals and achieve them. She pointed me to all the right resources I needed. She helped me stay on track with school and also helped me apply for Social Security for Devynn. She helped get Devynn evaluations for her disabilities.***

***I now have Kayla L. as my worker and she has helped me so much also. She helped get resources after the Derecho storm that was much needed. She supported me through COVID 19 illness, online learning for my daughter and myself and passing my finals and on to graduating with my Criminal Justice degree. Now February 2021 I can say I am working in security with my Private Security License, starting a new job at The Heart of Iowa-ASAC and my daughter is thriving in Kindergarten. I owe it all to the three wonderful Four Oaks workers that have helped me every step of the way. Without them I know for a fact I would not be where I am today. Thank You!!***