

UNITED WAY OF THE OHIO VALLEY
OWENSBORO-DAVISS COUNTY
PARTNER AGENCY: BUILDING STRONGER FAMILIES

This case is a referral from Department of Community Based Services for Protection and Permanency due to allegation of child being “smacked in the mouth”. Mom was cooperative and wanted services. Mom has four children, two from one man, and two from her husband. The older two see their father enter an apartment across the street to visit, but he doesn’t visit with his sons. This causes lots of anger in the older two boys. The family resides in public housing in an area of town that was experiencing gunshots at the time the family was in the program. Initial assessment demonstrated low scores in the areas of parenting capabilities, family interaction and child well-being. Mom and home visitor set goals of decreased hitting in the home and increase parenting skills. The children ranged from 5 to 14 and were very open in describing behaviors. They said mom yelled a lot and would throw whatever was nearby when she was angry at their behaviors. The family all participated in the curriculum with the exception of dad. The family created with help from the home visitor, behavior charts and chore charts. The children selected chores they were willing to do which increased their willingness to complete the chores on time. The oldest child was restricted to a one block area due to the stresses of the neighborhood. He was not allowed to go riding with friends, spend the night with friends or go to the park. The child was resentful and acted out verbally angrily. Mom kept trying to explain she was trying to keep him safe. The home visitor and mom worked on limits for the 14 year old and places that were safer. Mom let the child spend the night a couple of times after assessing safety. She also let him attend school events. The child’s behavior towards mom improved dramatically. The children began to report mom was yelling less and stopped throwing things. They said they would warn her to use another strategy. Mom reported she was less stressed and was coping better with the children. One benefit is that towards the end, dad would come stand on the edge of the room and listen and at closure they reported dad was spending quality time with all four boys.....not often, but had begun doing this. The assessment scores in the areas of parenting capabilities, family interaction and child well-being all improved dramatically and at closure the children were healthy and safe and being nurtured in their home.

WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL YOUR INVESTMENT MAKE?

With your investment of \$100 **Building Stronger Families** can:

- Provide six families with curriculum workbooks
- Provide 230 miles of travel in employee’s personal car to reach families’ homes
- Provide two families with assessment time

