

REAL STORIES, REAL IMPACT

[Project for Pride in Living](#)

Staying Strong: Theresa's Story

Theresa moved to the Metro area about eight years ago, first living in a woman's shelter. Today, she's making a better life everyday for herself and her six-year-old daughter. She first sought PPL's services when, newly married, she became pregnant at the very same time her husband was sentenced to six years in prison.



"I was on public assistance and didn't want to be," said Theresa. "But that was really the only way that I could afford food and get medical care." With determination and help from PPL's welfare-to-work program, she found employment and got off public assistance a few years ago. She says she's faced a lot of ups and downs since then, and what seems to be a new struggle everyday – keeping a steady income, keeping a place to live, dealing with transportation.

"When you live paycheck to paycheck, it's not an easy way to get ahead for yourself," she said. But she doesn't stop trying.

Last year, Theresa joined the [Center for Working Families](#) and with the help of coaching, negotiated \$30,000 of debt, asked for, and got, a raise and better benefits. She said the staff at the Center "helps me stay strong when at times I want to give up."

The employment counselor at the Center says it is Theresa who is the inspiration: "She's overcome so much in her life. She keeps positive and focused on attaining a better life. Boy, she's a fighter."

Total TC LISC support: in grants, loans, and capacity building support since 1998

Our COACTION Fund grantees share real life stories about the impact of their community development work on local residents. [COACTION Fund](#) is a \$3.3 million capacity-building effort to support 15 high-impact, local community development initiatives. The Fund focuses on new and existing partnerships between Twin Cities organizations working to connect physical improvements in neighborhoods to economic opportunity for residents.