

A lost family reunited in . . .

# FRESH START

My name Jill Chaffin I am 32 years old. I spent most of my life bouncing from one place to the next, from job to job and one couch to another.

When I got pregnant at 23, I was a drug user and homeless, so I moved in with my father and got cleaned up, got my G.E.D. and started college. But within 2 years I was back using drugs and was homeless again, and my mother took custody of my daughter. For years I was out of contact with my family and had given up on myself.

At 30, I lost another job and was evicted again, and soon found out I was pregnant again. I knew I had to fight this time; I'd already lost one child I wasn't going to lose another.

My mom and I started to talk a little and she was there with me for the birth of my son, but two days later, so was DHS. They wanted to know what I was going to do differently this time, since I'd lost my daughter six years earlier, and my response was "ANYTHING IT TAKES".

My sister came forward and allowed my newborn son and me a temporary home. I attended drug relapse prevention classes, had random drug tests, took parenting and life skills classes, and applied to enter a two-year self-sufficiency program at The Salvation Army called "Fresh Start".

Within three months we were moving into our own apartment. My family was there to support and help me because they saw in Fresh Start that I was really trying this time. My son and I had a whole new life ahead of us.

I got a job working in a preschool and a year later I reunited with my daughter. We got to spend our first Thanksgiving and Christmas together, all of us as a family. I graduated from Fresh Start the following year and we moved out into our own little place. I still have the same job and have taken classes to obtain my Child Development Associate certificate. I plan on always looking forward, in ways to better myself, and the lives of my children.

My goal is to one day be completely off assistance and truly be self-sufficient.

My name is Jill Chaffin I am 32 years old, a single mom of a 2-½ year old, for the first time in my life I know that we are going to be okay.

God works miracles, and He worked a miracle in my life, and I thank Him.



Jill Chaffin  
June 2007



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THE MOST  
GOOD<sup>SM</sup>

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