

## **UHMS Success Story**

### ***No Looking Back***

*“It feels good to be able to pay my own bills and do it the legal way!” These are the words of a young man who has successfully graduated from DYRS commitment and Universal Daybreak Therapeutic Group Home. Kevin (as we will call him here) is excited about his life now. “I have a baby girl, a job, my own apartment and I feel good about myself.”*

*When Kevin initially came to Daybreak Group Home he was obstinate, defiant and at times disrespectful. He didn’t want anyone to tell him what to do. He had his own path mapped out, a path leading to destruction. However the staff at Daybreak, his therapist and community support workers saw this young man’s potential and continually worked with him until he graduated from the group home. Kevin continues to work with a UHMS therapist and community support workers, but now it is of his own volition.*

*According to Kevin, his former friends all think there’s something wrong with him and say, “Since he left DYRS and got a job he don’t want to get his hands dirty,” but Kevin says that he does not care what they say. “I feel good not having to look over my shoulder and wonder if somebody is going to see me do something and call the police. I’m not trying to go backwards. I’ve done a 360 degree turn and I have a plan thanks to the people who helped me, like my therapist at Universal and the people at Daybreak. They really cared and kept after me even when I didn’t want to listen.”*

*Kevin goes on to say, “But I am not going to stop now, I have other dreams... I am saving my money; I want to go to college or get a trade. I am going to make something of myself, but I realize now I can’t do it by myself. My aunt and uncle and the people who really care are there for me now and really have always been there. I just had to open my eyes and realize they all meant me some good.”*

*“I have a therapist and community support workers at Universal who will not let me fail. They look out for me and help me to want to do the right thing; and to be honest with you, that’s what life is really all about: wanting to do the right thing and [then actually] doing it. I am on my way and I am not going to look back or stop until I realize my dreams.”*