

Carrie and Mars



Carrie's childhood was less than idyllic; her mother was manipulative and emotionally abusive, and by 16, Carrie began dating someone whose attitude and behaviors mirrored those of her mother. Despite the emotional and verbal abuse, Carrie believed that she was happy in her relationship because her situation at home had taught her to accept less she deserved.

Carrie had previously been diagnosed with ovarian cysts that grew quite large and needed to be removed. So, when she began experiencing nausea and discomfort in her lower abdomen, she worried the cysts had grown back. Doctors had said she may never have a child due to the trauma caused by the cysts, so when her doctor said she was pregnant, Carrie wasn't sure how to feel. She felt shocked, scared, happy, nervous, and a million other emotions at once. And when Carrie told her mother, she was met with anger that only added to her uncertainty. For weeks, Carrie's mother hardly spoke to her, except to urge her to have an abortion. She stopped buying groceries for the home, thinking that if Carrie became hungry enough, she would agree to end her pregnancy. Carrie moved in with her boyfriend and the couple decided against abortion, but were not sure if that meant parenting or placing their child with a loving adoptive family. Carrie felt she was too young to raise a child, but also worried that this might be the only baby she would ever conceive. She contacted CHSofNJ to discuss all of her options and sort through her feelings with one of our caring birth parent counselors.



Carrie felt safe at CHSofNJ, and trusted that our professional staff had her and her child's best interests at heart. After much consideration, Carrie and her boyfriend decided to parent their son. Our staff remained active in her life by checking in often and helping connect Carrie to other CHSofNJ parent education and support programs that might benefit their young family.

Carrie learned that her mother had opened multiple credit accounts in her name, and the young mom had to work day and night to restore her credit and remove the fraudulent cards from her record. It was during this stressful and upsetting time that Carrie learned she was pregnant with her second child. She became extremely depressed, worrying she could not provide for another baby and agonizing over the thought of bringing another child into her unstable relationship with their father. Carrie and her boyfriend decided the best place for their unplanned baby would be with a loving, stable, adoptive family. They contacted CHSofNJ to help them through the process of adoption.

Carrie and her boyfriend worked together to choose the right home for their baby girl, and settled on an open adoption (in their case) to a lovely woman named Christine. Carrie and Christine have maintained a great relationship; they speak each month, and Christine shares photos of the baby often! Carrie is so thankful that CHSofNJ was there for her and found such a wonderful home for her daughter when she made the difficult, but loving decision to place her second baby for adoption.

With the continued support of CHSofNJ, Carrie became a stronger woman and found the confidence to be an amazing mother. Her excellent parenting is evident when you meet little Mars, who just turned four last month. He is the sweetest little boy, never forgetting to say "please" or "thank you" with a smile on his face and a twinkle in his eye. Mars is incredibly bright, loves to paint, and his joyful laugh can brighten your entire day! Carrie has also moved on to a new and much more stable relationship, and she is so pleased that Mars can now see what a healthy, happy relationship looks like.

Since 1894, CHSofNJ has been saving children's lives and building healthy families because we believe that every child deserves a safe and loving home, and every parent deserves the support and guidance to help them become the best caregiver and role model they can be. We are proud to be there for Carrie, her beautiful children, and tens of thousands of babies, children, teens, parents, and grandparents throughout New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania each year. Your gift today will help us touch even more lives. Please help us make a difference for another at-risk child in our community.