



A Guiding Light

Read Eveline's story and learn how CHSofNJ helped her and her family through their most trying times.



The
Children's
Home Society

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Late one night in June of 2017, Eveline was awakened by terrible pain. What began as a dull ache earlier in the evening had become sharp, excruciating pains that seemed to shoot across her lower back. The pain was almost constant, and enough to bring Eveline to her knees. Her boyfriend, Lucas, awoke to the sound of Eveline crying in agony from the bedroom floor. Obviously concerned, Lucas woke the couple's four-year-old son, Dylan, and rushed the family to the Emergency Room.

Eveline was admitted to the hospital immediately, but she worried she might pass out from the pain before she could even see a doctor. Eveline's doctor explained that not only was she pregnant, but she was eight months along and that the pain she was experiencing was actually labor! Eveline was in shock and scared. Very quickly, Lucas, who had moved out for a period of time in 2016, realized that this baby could not be his. He became very upset and visibly angry. Compounding this stressful situation was the fact that Eveline's routine blood work upon admittance to the hospital showed opiates in her system. The hospital was required to contact the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P), since Eveline was also caring for her young son, Dylan.

It was determined that Eveline was addicted to pain medication. Dylan was placed in his grandmother's care so that his mom could begin an in-patient program at a drug rehabilitation facility after having her baby. Eveline's daughter, whom she named Sophia, spent the first two weeks of her life in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) to detox from the opioids her mother had abused during pregnancy. Eveline anguished over the consequences her addiction placed her baby Sophia in. In counseling with The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (CHSofNJ), Eveline made the difficult but loving decision to place Sophia for adoption. Eveline knew that she was not able to care for her sweet, tiny baby girl the way she needed, and wanted her to be raised by a family that could give her love and wonderful care.

The hospital had introduced Eveline to CHSofNJ the day of the delivery. One of our caring birth parent counselors met with her to discuss all of her options and ensure Eveline was making the decision that was best for her, Sophia, and her family. Eveline

decided on an open adoption. She found comfort in the knowledge that she would receive photos and letters from Sophia's adoptive family, and one day, maybe from Sophia herself.

Sophia is doing very well with her adoptive parents who love and adore her. She is healthy, happy, and meeting all of her developmental milestones. Dylan is still living with his grandmother while Eveline continues to work through her struggles with addiction. Eveline and her boyfriend Lucas have entered couples' therapy, where they are learning healthier ways to communicate. They are committed to strengthening their family so that Dylan can come home to a stable caring home with loving parents. Eveline and her CHSofNJ counselor speak often, and Eveline has said that she is thankful for the support of our staff during what was one of the most difficult times in her life.

CHSofNJ has been saving children's lives and building healthy families since 1894. We were able to support Eveline as she faced one of the hardest choices she wanted to make. We were able to help baby Sophia find a loving home with wonderful parents. We were able to make a meaningful difference in the lives of more than 84,000 babies, children, parents and caregivers last year alone. Each of these accomplishments are made possible with the help of caring donors like you. Your donation today will allow us to be there for even more babies, children, and families in the coming year.

Thank you for your support, and for partnering with CHSofNJ in our mission to save children's lives and build healthy families. No gift is too small, as all donations support the direct services for our infants and children.