

CHERICE
STORY OF SUCCESS



“I came to TLP because my mom put me out. We’ve had some hard times, but we’ve gone through counseling classes together, and now we have a much better relationship than before. I’m turning 21 next week and my mom’s going to spend my birthday with me.”

Cherice has wrestled demons, lost faith, and at times, slipped up. In her two years at Teen Living Programs, she has triumphed over fear, learned to transform difficult relationships, and become capable of consistently making— and sticking with— good choices. She also has become her own best advocate. “Last year, I went to Springfield with one other youth and TLP staff to tell representatives why they should give money for transitional jobs. It took a lot for me to go there and tell them my story, and they were so glad I did. I was glad I did!”

Cherice lives with her brother and has just started a new job. She is enrolled in TLP’s after-care program,

Shoulder-to-Shoulder, which provides supportive services including counseling, a bus pass, and Internet access as she transitions to independent living. She is most proud to have just completed her GED, and plans to begin college next semester to become an emergency medical technician. When asked what gift she would give, Cherice says, “motivation to other youth who have been in the same predicament as me.”