
MINNESOTA YOUTH SUCCESS STORY: Kendra

WSA 2 – RURAL MINNESOTA CONCENTRATED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

KENDRA



In 2008, a referral came from a Molly Springs ALC head teacher for **Kendra**. Kendra was enrolled in the younger youth program at the age of 16. She lived in rural Pierz area and attended Molly Springs Alternative Learning Center in Swanville where it was a 30 mile drive for her to get to school. Kendra did not have a driver's license, is from a single family household, and had moved out of her mother's house and was living with friends. She struggled in school and was going to quit many times. Her lead teachers convinced her she could get her high school diploma. Many

meetings were held to discuss her progress and adjust her IEP to get school credits for her work experience. She then had a child of her own and moved into her own apartment. She has always worked in the youth program and a promise was made to her that as long as she was making progress towards her high school diploma she could continue working. In January of 2012, Kendra completed her final math requirement and received her high school diploma. She is the first person in her family to graduate from high school. She continued on work training but had to come to the Workforce Center weekly and apply for employment. She was hired full time this summer and is working in the Deli department at Coborn's grocery in Little Falls. She said she would have quit school on many occasions if not for the help from CEP. She has a sense of accomplishment when you talk to her and now she is optimistic about her future.

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