Testimony

Paul Lumpkin, Parent, PTHV Trainer, Springfield, MA

When we moved into the city of Springfield, we started out in the shelter, not knowing many resources. I obtained custody of my children from social services, so my relationship with particularly bureaucratic institutions wasn’t where it should have been. I was introduced to the home visit project. This gave me chance to make a connection with the teacher on my own turf, let her know some of the issues that may get overlooked, because I’ve had barriers when I’ve gone into schools. You typically will not see a single father in a school, asking questions. There was a deterrent to me building connections. The project has been a way for the teacher and I to discuss things that are going on in our lives. She’s pointed out other resources for me. It’s also empowered me to become active in my children’s education. We are the only voice our children have. The connections we make with the teachers pretty much determine how successful they’re going to be.