



## Birth & Beyond Program Success Story

Dean, the father of a 3-year-old autistic son, was referred to Mutual Assistance Network Arden-Arcade by Child Protective Services. At the time of the initial meeting, Dean was at risk for housing eviction, and was overwhelmed mentally, physically, and emotionally. Dean disclosed that he was diagnosed with autism, anxiety, and depression, and that he had “bad experiences” with ciswomen, because Dean is transgender.

Dean began to engage in Home Visitation services. Dean shared that he was at risk of being homeless, in addition to having an autistic child, being a caretaker for his elderly parents, and having autism himself; understandably, he found it difficult to concentrate on the parenting lessons. At his home visitor’s suggestion, Dean agreed to Crisis Intervention case management services.

While providing Dean with both Crisis Intervention and Home Visitation services, there was a need for a secondary Child Protective Services referral to be made to assist and provide the father with further resources. With the help of Child Protective Services intervention, the Home Visitor and the Crisis Intervention Specialist assisted the father with enrolling in Crisis Nursery to ensure an alternate way to attend to his child’s pressing needs, so that Dean could tend to his own.



When Dean had to get surgery, he was able to place his child in the Crisis Nursery, with special care given for the child’s needs. The child stayed at Crisis Nursery for about two weeks, with Dean, the grandfather, and the grandmother checking in with the case manager. Dean stated that it really helped him with his recovery and his mental state to know that his child was in a safe and nurturing place.

Dean stated that he could not believe that there were agencies who would commit themselves to following up and following through with families. He was most surprised after completing a Crisis Nursery Tour, because he had initially declined to utilize their services, without a second thought. After taking the tour and seeing the excellent care that would be given to his special-needs child, he felt more at ease to utilize them for his surgery.

Soon after, Dean moved into a new place, and was given news that his mother was approved to have a nurse come by a few days a week in order to help with her needs. Dean said that this helped alleviate a lot of stress from caring for his mother, his son, and himself. He completed Crisis Intervention services and his case was closed out soon after.