



## Mother & Son Happy After Rebuilding Fractured Relationship

Featured Article

TEAMWORKS a Win  
Win

Message from the  
Assistant Commissioner  
of Public Relations

Save the Date:  
The Georgia Gathering

Provider Manual  
Update

Celia is a sweet lady who devotes each day to her work, her family and her community. She lives with her husband in Fort Valley, Ga. and has worked for six years as a cook in the kitchen of Kay Community Center. Each Christmas she happily fulfills all the requests she receives from community members for her famous holiday cakes. Celia's favorite day of the week is Sunday because after church, all her children gather at her home for her wonderful home-cooked meals. But her only son is not there.



Over the past few years, Celia has had only one request. She wants Steve to be a part of this time and a part of her life.

I have been Celia's Support Coordinator for a few years and have watched her grow in all areas of her life. While she yearned for a relationship with Steve, she spoke of it as an unattainable goal.

Early this year, I inherited a few additions to my caseload in Fort Valley and went to meet my new friends at Kay Community Center. The last young man I met was very shy and it was difficult to establish a conversation.

Before our conversation ended, Kay Center's program supervisor joined in by saying, "Steve, Danielle also works as your mother's Support Coordinator." Steve was Celia's estranged son. I developed a relationship with Steve over the next few months but could not get much of a response from him in regards to his mother.

Celia's hope and dream this year was to build a relationship with Steve and we created goals for Celia during her ISP meeting that included increasing her relationship skill building, expressing her feelings to

Steve and planning events together.

Celia desired more than anything to have him in her life but had no idea how to begin. Although the two attend the same facility daily, they did not interact at all and had become used to living this way. Celia has not been able to express herself to her son. No one else seemed to know how to either. Staff members reported countless unsuccessful attempts. At least that was the case until person-centered thinking became the perfect recipe for Celia and Steve's relationship.

After talking with Steve, we discovered he wants to be a part of his mother's life as well and agreed to take time out of his week to spend time with her at the work center to talk, plan events and rebuild a relationship. Steve was always reluctant to talk about this when staff approached him with this issue in the past.

I realized that Steve responds better to me if I interact with him more as if we were peers rather than as an authority figure and decided to intentionally approach him this way. I met the family on their level of development, which established trust.

This led to Steve and Celia both seeing a solution rather than a problem. Celia and Steve called me on Valentine's Day to tell me that for the first time ever, Steve went right up to Celia, hugged her, kissed her and told her that he loved her. He also bought her Valentines gifts for the first time in his adult life. Celia stated that this was the happiest day of her life.

Steve and Celia have continued to develop a relationship. They attend church together and he spends Sunday afternoons with his family. Steve spent Mother's Day with Celia and purchased her a gift and card. Celia reported that she doesn't even have to work on this as a goal anymore because it just happens now and that she is the happiest ever.

She was also very proud to announce that her new joy has helped her complete a Kitchen Supervisory Certificate from the University of Georgia, displayed on the cafeteria wall at the Kay Center. Steve was very proud to show this off as well and calls me frequently to tell me that he feels like he is really maturing into the man he wants to be.

*Submitted by Tammy Williams of Georgia Support Services*

***“To put the world right in order, we must first put the nation in order; to put the nation in order, we must first put the family in order; to put the family in order, we must first cultivate our personal life; we must first set our hearts right.”***

***~ Confucius***