



## CHWs Supports Client in Building Independence

**With compassion and care, AAU Adoptions CHWs assist clients in building independence and learning essential skills.**

With the mission to empower everyone involved in the adoption process, All About U Adoptions (AAU) employs CHWs to provide health system navigation and resource coordination to birth moms and those considering adoption. AAU's CHWs have lived experience in adoption and can connect as a trusted confidant for the birth moms throughout their pregnancy, delivery, and post-adoption care.

### CLIENT BACKGROUND

AAU had an expecting mother referred to them who communicated her desire to make an adoption plan for her baby. The client spoke English as a second language, had a history of traumatic brain injury, and was parenting her four-year-old, autistic daughter who required a higher level of care and attention. Additionally, the client was in an abusive relationship and a controlling home environment.

### SERVICES PROVIDED

AAU helped the client and her daughter relocate to a residential property owned by the agency for expectant mothers making an adoption plan. The client also selected an adoptive family and began building a relationship with them, meeting with the family several times prior to delivery.

The AAU CHWs assisted the client in many areas to equip her with the essential skills and services she needed. First, the CHWs helped her



**“IT’S NOT OUR JOB, IT’S OUR LIFE” (AAU’S TAGLINE) IS WHAT I HAVE LIVED AND WITNESSED, AND I WOULDN’T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY. THE THING I LOVE MOST ABOUT WORKING WITH AAU IS SUPPORTING BIRTH MOTHERS AND THEIR REASONS FOR CHOOSING ADOPTION.**

**- AAU CHW**

complete low-income housing applications to get her own place to live. To address the client's need for improved nutrition, the CHWs helped the client start educational classes with a dietitian to learn basic meal preparation, meal planning, and grocery shopping. The CHWs set up access to video classes for the client to also learn money management and independent living skills. Additionally, the CHWs helped the client learn how to seek services for herself and her daughter and assisted in completing applications for programs such as Medicaid, TANF, and an EBT card.

AAU also connected the client to special education services through the school system for her daughter.

## CLIENT SUCCESSES

The client delivered her baby son and was even accompanied by her chosen adoptive family during her hospital stay. She maintains an open adoption relationship with her son and his adoptive family. Because of her ongoing needs, AAU continues to provide support and post-placement counseling for her.

The client was approved for an EBT card, enabling her to buy groceries for herself and her daughter. She is currently waiting on Medicaid cards and has an interview for TANF scheduled. Through AAU and with the help of the CHWs, the client will continue to be provided with education on parenting and independent living.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All About U Adoptions (AAU) is a licensed child placement agency serving North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska. They are a full-service adoption agency offering adoption support, education, and adoption services to families and birth parents. They are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. They want to empower those experiencing an unplanned pregnancy and build families through adoption. To learn more about All About U Adoptions, visit <https://aauadoptions.org/>.

This CHW success story was submitted by Kris Gohn, CHW for All About U Adoptions, [kris@aauadoptions.org](mailto:kris@aauadoptions.org).



Read more Success Stories by visiting - <https://chwsd.org/success-stories/>