Mónica, a single mom from NC, was raised by her grandparent’s. Even from a young age she knew she wanted to be a success. When her grandparents passed away, Monica had been to 5 high schools and always managed to stay on the honor roll. Through perseverance, she put herself through school and graduated with her Bachelor’s Degree.

It was a long journey, but I was so proud to be the first college graduate in my family. In subsequent years, Monica married and welcomed a son and a daughter. Then the unexpected happened. Her third child, Leshaye, was born with health issues and a daughter. Then the un expected happened. “Our planning process renewed our families,” Berggren adds. “They start believing things CAN change!” Monica’s story is only one of many encountered at the Real Life Center. The names and faces may change, but the circumstances are very similar. The Real Life Center’s mission is to guide those struggling families back to a solid foundation by using a number of innovative strategies to create long-term change. “When families get to stay in their homes and kids in their schools, family relationships remain strong. That kind of stability leads to healthier families, and healthier families lead to healthier communities,” Cathy Berggren concludes. By harnessing the power of our local community, we all have an opportunity to make a difference in the life of a neighbor!

Real Life Center Offers Career Classes

In 2016, close to 60% of client families sought help at the Real Life Center due to the job loss or the downturn of the economy. To address this need, the Real Life Center is implementing a new series of four career classes in February 2017. “Our career classes are designed to help equip our families during their time of need,” shares Rosemarie Gossett, Marketing Director. “It is a great way to learn new skills, build confidence, and feel empowered at a time when life is challenging.” The classes will all focus on maintaining your job preparedness, creating a stellar resume, owning the job interview and achieving income from home.

During a pilot program in 2016, Monica met with Angel who came to the Real Life Center during a season of life with many challenges. She recognized it was time to be intentional about change. She graduated from a series of three classes where she learned how to update her resume, determine her next career step, apply for positions and interview for jobs. She worked with a Career Mentor who assisted her with implementing each of these steps during her job search. For the last 10 months, Angel has been gainfully employed in a professional role at a local international company.

Nancy Welch

“We can all choose to live our lives intentionally and influence the lives of others,” says Nancy Welch, a single mom from NC, who assisted her with implementing each of these classes. “Our planning process renewed our families.”

Center volunteers.

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