



Hope for the Future

When she arrived at the Board of Child Care, **Kendra** was depressed and angry at the world. Since she was small, her life had been a swirl of court hearings and temporary homes.

"I just thought people were evil and were out to get you," she recalls. "I didn't like being around people. I just wanted to be by myself."

When the foster home placement she was living in at age 12 didn't work out, she wound up at the Board of Child Care's Safe Haven shelter. By her second day, she realized the solitary life she craved was not to be. "I had to learn how to deal with people and get along with people," she says. "I had to learn what battles to fight."

And there were many battles. Kendra generated her anger into fights with her peers. BCC's network of staff stepped in to address the issue. They told her

not to let petty things get in her way. They pointed out that she was a natural leader and needed to set an example for others. They pushed her to focus her energy on school and community service.

Kendra realized school was a whole other world and she loved to learn. She earned a place on the honor roll and got involved in Milford Mill Academy's softball and volleyball teams. At the same time Kendra became involved in BCC's spiritual life program and established a connection to God that had never before existed in her life. Last

summer she worked as a camp counselor and started saving money for her future.

Kendra is now 17 and a freshman at Stevenson University, where she is studying social work. Inspired by the lawyer who has represented her since the age of five, Kendra plans to eventually become a lawyer herself for children in the child welfare system.

But she doesn't plan to close the door on BCC just yet. She already has plans to return on her semester breaks.

"My home is 3300 Gaither Road," she says. "There are people who care there."

