

Umayma:

My name is Umayma. I'm 24 years old. July, 2019, I found out that I was pregnant and my family, they were like, "No, you're not having this baby." I was like at a loss. I didn't know what to do. I was young, I was still in college, and I was like, "How am I going to take care of a baby?" I have a friend who went to First Choice herself. She recommended First Choice to me because I wasn't sure if I wanted to keep the baby or not, because I'm just going through a whole bunch of emotions.

So I went to First Choice and I met Miss Linda and she was amazing. She let me talk. She listened. She didn't put her own input on there. She told me about all the great resources that First Choice have. They offer free baby clothes, they offer free classes, stuff for moms. So she made me feel really comfortable, really accepting. She prayed with me. She told me to find it within myself, ask God to guide me to my decision. She made it completely like my choice. She offered to get me a ultrasound and I found out I was six weeks pregnant. That's where I very first heard the heartbeat of my son, and I was sold whatever I got to do, whatever comes my way, I'm just going to have this baby. Yeah. So First Choice is the reason I kept my baby.

My son is ... he's so sweet. He's become the biggest blessing to not just me, to my family too. They tell me all the time, "I'm so sorry for encouraging you to get rid of him, because we love him so much. He's so sweet." And he really loves all of us. Gives us hugs, kisses. He just knows how to make us feel good. So it was really a great thing that I was led to the choice to keep him. So the help I received at First Choice really influenced my decision to go into social work and help other women in even other families.

I started a job in the social service field. I was a crisis intervention specialist, so every time I would come across a teenage mom, because we work with you from two years old all the way up to 19, and anytime I came across like a teenage mom, I would always refer them to a First Choice because being a mom isn't easy. No matter what you do, talk to somebody from here because you're going to get help. And having places like First Choice to be supportive during your pregnancy and even after, it's something that's critical in every community.