

Myllinda's Story

When "Myllinda" and "Joe" moved to the Floyd area in September 2015, Myllinda was 6 months pregnant with twins. Six years' prior, Myllinda had lost custody of her first child due to unacceptable living conditions. Time passed, and Myllinda met and married Joe, who has some intellectual disabilities. Accepting that parenting comes with many challenges, double that with twins, the family welcomed CHIP into their home.



The CHIP Team assisted Myllinda in obtaining WIC for proper nutrition during her pregnancy, provided prenatal education, and assisted her in making prenatal appointments. Although the twins were born prematurely at 34 weeks, they had healthy birth weights for twins and spent only five days in the NICU.

CHIP was able to provide education and support to Myllinda and Joe for the premature infants, as well as referring to Early Intervention for additional services. After the births, Myllinda screened positive on the CHIP depression screen for possible postpartum depression and staff referred her for follow up care, as well as counseling and additional mental health services. During this time, staff observed that the cleanliness of the home had deteriorated.

CHIP immediately provided education around keeping a clean and safe home for the twins, and assisted Myllinda and Joe in locating items to clean and baby proof their home. The twins celebrated their first birthday in late October 2016, and are currently healthy and thriving. Their home has remained clean and safe, and both parents are now receiving counseling and mental health services. Myllinda states, "With CHIP we feel supported because they are always there for us when we need help. They always answer our questions. CHIP helped us feel good about ourselves as parents. Some thought we couldn't handle having twins, but CHIP said we could. We feel confident raising twins because of CHIP."

Donations like yours help CHIP and other United Way partner agencies do meaningful, life-changing work around the New River Valley. Without CHIP, Myllinda and Joe may still be struggling as parents. When you give to United Way, you help families throughout the New River Valley establish a great foundation for life.

For more information on CHIP visit <http://newrivercommunityaction.org/chip/>