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My Life

“Look at you. You’re going to get pregnant by any guy you meet.” “You’re never going to do anything with your life.” “You’re going to end up in jail.” “You’re an embarrassment to me.” These are the words I grew up hearing from my family and my mother. I never heard these words from my friends’ mothers, but they were words my mother constantly fed me. It’s a wonder that I can still carry a smile and know that not all people are like her.

As a teenager, I was lonely. It was just me and my mom, and all she did was work; and when she was home, she was reminding me of how I was nothing and would always be nothing. So when this guy came around promising me the world, I fell for him. But just like others, I found myself pregnant at 16; and my prince charming became my worst nightmare. My “then” boyfriend was no different from my mother. He, too, put me down while I was pregnant and even became physically abusive. The abuse became worse when the baby came. After my daughter was born, I realized I was just becoming another statistic just like my mother had predicted, but I knew that I wanted something different out of life for me and my daughter, and my boyfriend was not going to give us the “family life” that I dreamed of having. I had to be strong for my daughter. I didn’t want her to grow up seeing me being hit, so I broke off my relationship with him and focused on improving my future for me and my daughter. So, I have focused completely on her and on completing high school.

I am proud to say that this June I will be a 2010 high school graduate. Despite my mother’s negativity, I am working through the challenge of being a mom and a student, but it is all worth it. I am already enrolled to start fall classes at Long Beach City College where I plan to study sociology so that I may transfer to a Cal State University where I will continue my education to become a social worker. My daughter is my joy and inspiration to want to help other children whom I know are suffering and need the help of a social worker. As a social worker, I also hope to help and inspire other teen moms. Society is so quick to judge us, and I feel that I will be able to help other girls get ahead in their future. I will tell them that I know what it’s like to not have money for diapers, but there is a better way and we have to be strong so that our kids will also grow up to be someone important too.