



Meet Ashely

LIFE STYLES CLIENT SINCE 2008

Home Is Where The Heart Is.

Ashely's bubbly personality belies a troubled childhood—this resilient young woman was removed from her biological home at eleven years of age and put under the care of a legal custodian. After being housed in the foster care system, institutionalized in one of Arkansas' Human Development Centers, and cared for by other human services agencies, Ashely finally made her way to Life Styles in 2008.

Not surprisingly, Ashely harbored a biting anger and a prevalent mistrust. Perhaps most damaging of all, she felt undeserving of success and somehow fatally flawed. "I just wanted to know what a family was like," Ashely remembers. Yet she frequently found herself in trouble and required round-the-clock care to keep on just a somewhat-straight path.

But then, Life Styles staffer Krista Edgerton invited Ashely into her home for Christmas. "It was the first time I spent Christmas with a family outside of foster care," says Ashely. And that pivotal event was followed by the growing influence of John Newman, who became Life Styles' executive director in 2016. "If it wasn't for Life Styles and John—if he didn't believe in me—I wouldn't be here today. John never left my corner," Ashely recalls.

Today Ashely is a bona fide success story: Among her many achievements, she was appointed to the select Life Styles Client Leadership Team, took on an ambitious role executing Weekend Activities for other Life Stylers, and recently landed a job at PetSmart—all on her own.

"When she realized she was worthy, she truly became the captain of her own ship," Krista says of Ashely's transformation. "She learned to build a family here at Life Styles."

We are so, so glad she finally made it home.



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