



Erin's Testimony

Hello, I'm Erin. **My story begins at a young age.** When I was a year old my mom walked out on my dad leaving my sister, my brother, and me. My dad took care of us by himself for about two years; he remarried when I was three. Growing up, I was a good kid. When I was in eighth grade, I was very active especially in sports but the best part of that year was that my mom was starting to come back into our lives. But I was devastated when she took her own life not long after. I took it very hard but never told anyone. **I was so hurt and sadness was behind every smile.** My parents didn't really know everything I was doing to cover my pain, but they had started hearing rumors so they sent me to Virginia to live with my Aunt and Uncle. When I came back I was on the right track and stayed on it for a while. I went back to the same school and the same friends. Then I started lying and leaving my house without permission. My parents sent me to Virginia again. This time I didn't know when I would be back. I went down there with the attitude that I would just find worse things to do. My Aunt and Uncle told me I would have to leave after I lied, disobeyed, and put myself in danger. My parents told me nothing would be the same; I would not go to the same school or back to the same places I had been. They told me about The Fold, and at first I argued but when the staff invited me to come, I couldn't refuse. **I knew I needed to change** so I came willingly.

At first, it was difficult, and looking back I see how the Lord began to change my attitude into something new even before I learned to trust Him. **The first couple of months I stood at the crossroads of Christianity.** I didn't know if I was ready to give up all of the "good times", but God showed me better ones. **I chose Him.** My attitude changed drastically, and God revealed truth to me about anger, hurt, sadness, envy, jealousy, and disrespect. God showed me He could even use the death of my mother to lead me toward Him. It hurts, and it always will. However, God knows and He uses that tragic event **for His glory every day.** I thank Him for what He is doing, not only in my life, but in my family as well.

(Erin's full testimony is on our website)



We need YOUR help!!!

The Fold relies on YOU to spread the word. If you know of hurting or struggling teens and families, please direct them to our website or call Johanna in admissions at 802.626.5620. If you personally or your church needs resources please contact sarah@thefoldinc.org.

Your help may be timely for someone who needs The Fold.

Matching Grant Opportunity!

In order to help stimulate growth and strengthen The Fold's finances, a generous benefactor has offered to match new and/or above and beyond "normal" gifts up to \$40,000. If you know of others who might be excited about supporting The Fold's ministry to troubled teens and have not given directly, please share this opportunity. And if you can help us with additional support please indicate, "match" on your check.

Staff Opportunities

We are seeking individuals who love the Lord Jesus Christ and desire to share His life with teens and their families. For more information on residential and teaching positions, contact The Fold at 802.626.5620 or fold@thefoldinc.org



Graduation 2009



The Fold
FAMILY MINISTRIES

The Fold Family Ministries - 802 626-5620
P.O. Box 1188, Lyndonville, VT 05851
www.thefoldinc.org

Changing Lives...Renewing Hope...Restoring Families
ONE SON and ONE DAUGHTER at a time

Aiyanna's Testimony

Many teenagers grow up not knowing who they are or where they belong.

I was one of those teens. To this very day, I am unsure of who my birthparents are. Until the age of two, I was in the New York Child Services (Foster Care) as a victim of negligence. My grandmother claimed guardianship of me, took me into her home, and raised me as if I was her own daughter. For eight years I was just a normal kid living life. At nine years old, the reality of not knowing who my birthmother was or even where she was, began to affect me. I became very destructive and looked to negative things as a way to cope with my pain and anger. During this time, **God was trying hard to reach me.** My cousin Lorraine, with whom I now live, invited me to church. I went reluctantly, not intending to receive anything that had to do with God. I was angry and wanted nothing to do with Him. I blamed Him for the way I had chosen to live my life, for not being able to know who my birthmother was, for the constant fighting, for everything. I remember stepping into the church sanctuary, seeing teenagers raise their hands to the very God I hated. I thought, "These people are ridiculous." **But God kept pursuing me!** I don't remember much about what was said that night, all I remember was the speaker saying that if you place your trust in God, **He can change the way you are living.** I recieved Christ, thinking that once I did, everything was going to change automatically. I started living with Lorraine, and in the years that followed our relationship began to worsen because of the wounds in my own life; I was afraid that I would just get passed onto someone else. Instead of embracing her and being thankful to her for providing for me, I pushed her away. It was then that I entered The Fold. My time at The Fold was difficult, but I can say that it was all worth it. I learned how to persevere, to love, to ask for help when I need it, and **to grow closer to God.** I graduated The Fold's high school and discipleship program and now I am planning to attend college. *(Aiyanna's full testimony is on our website)*



Don't forget to check out our website to keep up with current events, mailings, what's new at The Fold and pictures!

See more pictures from Graduation 2009!

Girls Home

In addition to graduating our high school, Erin also graduated The Fold's discipleship program in July. Several new residents have entered the program and we are excited to see the growth in them already. The girls have been very involved and enjoying summer doing lots of activities: community service, shopping, making movies, hiking, swimming, biking, volleyball, ice cream, etc! In May the girls had the opportunity to visit Six Flags which was a lot of fun! The Home has also enjoyed interacting with church missions work teams including weekly ice cream socials!



Thank you for all your prayers and support!

Boys Home

The Boys Home has welcomed several new residents to the Program and are excited to see God working in their lives. The Boys Home has been active doing summer activities like: swimming, shopping, volleyball, softball, cookouts and dam-building in our stream. In July the Boys Home was able to attend a AA Baseball game in New Hampshire, which was a fun time for all. The Boys Home is blessed to have Rob Smith join the staff as Resident Instructor as well as support help from Nick B., a former Resident Instructor.

