



## Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc.

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***All kids want is for their parents  
to love them and take care of them.  
~ Alicyn Salato***

Alicyn Salato, a participant in Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency's (CSCAA) Kinship Caregiver Program, embraced the role of parent this past January when she took in her 16 year old niece Beanna. "She came from deplorable conditions," Ali explains. As a mother of three adult children, caregiver for her elderly father, and critical care nurse who has worked at Auburn Community Hospital for 30 years, Ali knew she had to step up to help.



It's hard to imagine what life was like for Beanna before she moved in with Ali. She came from a broken home of violence and abuse, living first with her mother and then her father. Neither situation was healthy for Beanna. "I told her she would never go hungry again, would never want for water," Ali recalls. Shortly after Beanna moved in, she learned she was five months pregnant. Ali and Beanna discussed options. Beanna chose to keep her baby and delivered a healthy son named Jace in July.

It's been a big adjustment for both. "It was a disaster when I first got Beanna" Ali says. "She didn't even have a birth certificate or social security card." Through a patient, Ali learned of CSCAA's Kinship Caregiver Program providing case management, group support and assistance to parents raising children other than their own. "The program has been my security blanket," Ali attests.

***You can support programs like Kinship that strengthen families in our community by making a financial gift to the Agency today!***

Kinship staff Deb Riester and Karen Stewart have helped Ali and Beanna adjust to their new life together, connecting them to services and support. Beanna is now enrolled in CSCAA's Healthy Families home visiting program for new and expecting parents. Kinship staff helped her obtain legal documentation, access WIC and SNAP, seek counseling, and fight for child support which is used to help pay for Jace's child care. "If we have any issues, I call Deb or Karen and they are right there for me," Ali says. "I'm so grateful."

It hasn't been easy for either Ali or Beanna. Today, Beanna is learning to drive, finishing her last year of high school with a 95 average, applying to nursing school, and learning to be the best mother she can possibly be to her son Jace. She rents a room from Ali, buys her own food, cooks her own meals, and is embracing her new life. "I'm very proud of her," Ali boasts, "She needs to be more proud of herself!"

***Please consider making a gift today to support programming that helps individuals like Ali and Beanna who are rising to life's challenges. Your donation will truly make a difference, and your support is so appreciated!***

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Piccolo  
Executive Director