



Amanda first met INW program staff at a low point. She was without a home, in jail, in active addiction, and 9 months pregnant. She knew she needed help but wasn't sure how to get started. Once Amanda's son was born and she was released from jail, she met weekly with her INW staff person (Juju) virtually. Amanda did not have family in Portland and lacked confidence in her ability to be the kind of mom she knew her newborn deserved. Juju instantly recognized that Amanda was a tenacious young woman with the capacity to be great at whatever she endeavored. Juju worked with Amanda to articulate her personal goals for herself and her young son, Xayden. Amanda's goals were to remain sober and be a good mother. Juju supported Amanda with tips, tools, resources, and encouragement. With support from INW, Amanda was able to find an affordable apartment, a job, quality childcare for Xayden, and the strength in herself to continue working on her sobriety.

Amanda responded enthusiastically to the information she was receiving, and she and her son actively participated in each weekly session with questions and concerns that arose over the last week. Best of all, each week Juju was able to witness the bond between mother and son and the joy within their small and loving family.

Today, Amanda remains clean and sober, and employed. Xayden is in daycare and thriving. She is preparing to move out of transitional housing into her own apartment. INW is honored to have supported Amanda during this time in her life. Amanda knows now that she is an incredible mom to her son and that she has what it takes to handle the challenges that life inevitably brings. She also knows that she is part of the INW family and that should she need support in the future, she is welcome to return for support.

We are grateful to Harry A. Merlo Foundation for providing essential services and support to families like Amanda and Xayden!



*Amanda and Xayden*