

FES

EXHIBIT 14
DATE 2/3/2011
HB _____

My name is Jesse Smith, I would be here today to speak, but I have an extreme phobia of public speaking, so please hear my voice through the pages that follow. I am 24 years old, a father of two, a husband, a home owner, and an employee of RMDC. I am currently employed by the state, but was a ward of the state for most of my life. I was put into foster care at the age of five. In the years to follow I was moved around a lot. I lived in foster care homes, group homes, shelters, residential treatment facilities, and stayed with numerous respite providers. My life has been filled with barriers/some would say rock walls from a very young age.

Through most of my school years I was very detached. I had no friends, was kind of dark and hopeless. I did not care about anything. Like most youth I did not think about my life as an adult. As you can imagine I was running with the wrong crowd and making poor choices. I began to run into legal troubles. By my junior year I had already been charged as an adult with several felony offenses and misdemeanors. I did manage to graduate with a good GPA. Academics always came very easy to me; however, I am still uncertain if this was how I played my teachers or if I was just naturally intelligent.

After I graduated high school, I went directly into college; this was due to several things. Everyone told me it was the next thing to do, "If you wait you won't go." Another part was my high school sweet heart, she instilled the confidence in me. I always thought she was an outstanding student and very determined. I felt inspired by her to continue on a different path, than I was currently headed. However, for me it always seemed as soon as I got on the right path something else went wrong.

Two months after high school graduation the love of my life was pregnant. I was still determined to continue to go to school and work to support my growing family. I was attending classes and working two jobs. Nine months later our first child "Lilly" was born. I had successfully completed the first year of my college classes with a 4.0 GPA. However, found myself bored in my classes and grew tired of computer programming.

I quit my job at Wendy's as the manager and took on a full time position with the construction company I was working for. The pay was much more adequate for sustaining my small family, but still not enough, so I took on a second job as a landscaper. Through foster care support programs, I was able to have assistance with my schooling. I continued with my college courses until my jobs were at jeopardy due to a shift in the economy. My high school sweetheart, now my wife, was pregnant with our second child. "Chloe". We had just purchased our first home, a new car, and the stress of not having a job and an ever growing family caused me to reevaluate my priorities. School was not one of them at this time. I needed to provide for my family.

I spent over three months applying for jobs and got nowhere. I even applied for fast food work and was not hired on. I suspect that this was due to my felonies, which were recently removed from my record. I had seen information on Career Training Institute at a temp agency.

I called and spoke with a case manager about the summer youth program. Knowing it wasn't permanent, we were desperate. Our house was about to be foreclosed on, and our van was almost repossessed. I was given many choices as to where I would like to work. I chose Rocky Mountain Development Council Weatherization. I worked throughout the summer and we sold a lot of our personal possessions. We were able to get caught up on our mortgage and car payments. I continued to look for another job, as I knew the program would be ending in September. I was still unable to find a job and that is when I enrolled in the YE\$\$ (FES) program. The YE\$\$ program was able to keep me in a work experience with RMDC Weatherization. We also were researching apprenticeships and the possibility of returning to college.

I was learning a lot as a weatherization technician, and I really liked the job. A position opened and I was able to apply. My case manager and I filled out the application and updated my resume. My co workers highly recommended me for the position. I got several letters of recommendation, one from my probation officer, discussing how far I had come. I was hired on and am now a full time weatherization technician with RMDC. I still think about continuing with my education down the road and speak with my case manager about this frequently. For now I am finally making enough to support my family. I have used the matched savings to purchase a reliable vehicle for work. I now feel that we are moving forward in a positive direction. I will continue to provide and try to give my children a better life than I had. The YE\$\$ program was the right program to help me along that path. I feel that I have broken the stereotypical cycle of poverty, foster care, and delinquents. Anyone can do it with the right support, tools, and motivation.

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my thankfulness of the Career Training Institute and the YESS program. I came into the program in the summer of 2010; I was 19, had no real work experience and two children to support. Right away my case manager Stacy Clement and I started working on a plan and goals for the future.

Within a month I was working through the paid experience program for the City in the Parks and Recreation Department, I received training and skills including a financial literacy class that helped me tremendously. I got enrolled in school and was on the fast track to meeting my goals.

I never imagined I'd be working a job outside of fast food restaurants but CTI changed that! Now I have a job that I absolutely love and the experience that will open more doors for me in the future. I am finally financially stable and able to provide for my children better than ever. Without the YESS program and wonderful staff at CTI I wouldn't of gotten the experience and education I received without having to sacrifice time with my kids. I am eternally grateful and hope that this program can continue to help more generations of our community's youth!

Sincerely,

Creeana Aviles

My name is Abby Nay, I'm 21 years old and I was born and raised in Helena Montana. I graduated from Capital High School in June of 2008. High school was full of some really wonderful times but also some very hard times as well. When I started my freshman year, I felt like a big shot coming in. I was a great athlete participating in three different sports throughout the year, I had a great group of friends who were all very good kids, and I was a very good student who excelled in all my subjects. I looked forward to going to school each day! I was on top of the world. My parents were very proud of me for all of my accomplishments and I felt so lucky to have such a fabulous support group.

Things Change. During my sophomore year of high school, my parents divorced. I never saw it coming and I definitely didn't want to accept it. I was in denial that my dad had even left. I continued going on with my day-to-day life, playing sports, hanging out with friends and keeping up with my school work. My dad had continued to stay very involved in my life at first. He would still come to all my sporting events and he called me every night to see how school went. Then, gradually he became more distant. He stopped coming to my games, the phone calls became every few weeks instead of every day. It then hit me that I was not alright; I was very hurt and upset by my dad's betrayal. In order to keep my mind off of the hurt I put as much focus into my sports as possible. It seemed to be the only thing that could keep me happy.

Junior and senior year were both negative experiences for me. My dad was still rarely, if ever there and my mom had to take a better job to support the family but it involved her working lots of hours so we never got to see her either. I had to deal with getting cut from the basketball team my junior year and the volleyball team my senior year. I had this new freedom from all the hours my mom was working to be out all night partying. My grades slipped from A's and B's to low C's and even some D's. I had absolutely no interest in school anymore. I was just ready to graduate and be done with school for good!

And that's the decision I made. After graduating high school I had no intentions to go to college anymore. I just wanted to move out and work and be able to make my own decisions. I got a job at the Pita Pit making \$8.00 an hour, which didn't add up to much every paycheck but I tried to save as much as I could. In August of 2008, I started dating my boyfriend Shawn. Shawn lived on his own and I was trying to move out so after only two months of dating we moved in together. Shawn and I both worked at the pita pit at this time so together we were making just enough to get by. In November of 2008, we found out that we were pregnant. It was a huge shock and we were definitely nowhere ready financially to have a baby. But we took on our responsibilities and in August of 2009 we had our son, Bryson.

After I had my son, I was no longer working at The Pita Pit anymore so we were living off of one income. My goal was to find a better paying job because we needed more money to care for a baby. Finally, in December of 2009, I got hired at the State Bar of MT. It was only part time hours and the pay was only \$0.50 more, but it was better than fast food. I had been working there for about 6 months when my co-worker Kathy Powers, called me into her office to talk. She had told me that doing data entry was not something I wanted to do forever and that she had made me an appointment at C.T.I to discuss college options. I was of course all for it, because I now realize that I will never be able to support a family without a good paying job, and most good paying jobs involve some kind of degree. I was excited to get back in classes and to do

To whom it may concern:

My name is Danielle Biltoft, I am a 22 year old mother, a full time employee, and a home owner thanks to the YE\$\$ program. Without this program, I would not be where I am today. Through the program, I had a lot of support to ensure I was able to continuously move forward in my success.

After my work experience, I was highly recommended for another job and have maintained that job. With my new career I was able to use the YE\$\$ matched saving account which assisted with child care and enabled me to purchase my first home. I had constant support from my case manager and felt that I was able to achieve many goals.

The program helped me gain experience and move forward with my life. This program was a great support for me and I am certain it could assist others to ensure their financial stability too.

Sincerely,

Danielle Biltoft

My Name is Clarissa. I'm a 23 year old single mother of two girls; ages 7 and 6. I came to Stacy and the YESS Program about 2 years ago. I was discouraged, lost, and alone. (Or so i thought.)

When i fell short on money and still had bills to pay or needed gas to get back and forth to work, Support of Services has been there to help. Through the YESS Program I've taken Financial Literacy classes, which help me EVERY day in budgeting my money. So those times of need remain few.

I've been able to work at a couple job sites through work experience. It built my confidence and resume' for the great job i have now. I also received Support of Services for new clothes for job interviews.

I was able to get hooked up with the match savings account at Helena Community Credit Union. After hitting 3 deer in my car just before Christmas that money really helped in buying a new (better) car.

CTI, Stacy, and the YESS Program is always very helpful and informative. For as long as i qualify, i hope to remain involved in the many blessings that come from this program.