



Kathleen has had an unbelievably difficult life. When she was 11 years old she was sexually assaulted by her mother's boyfriend. She was courageous enough to tell her teacher who contacted her mom. Kathleen's mom did not believe her and sent her to live with her grandparents in Alabama. Kathleen's grandfather would often beat her with his belt and locked her in a dark woodshed for hours.

At fourteen, Kathleen became pregnant with her first child. Her grandparents sent her back to Connecticut but her mom would not take her in so she lived with her dad for a short time. By the time Kathleen was 16 she had another baby.

Kathleen's mom had a very good job with the State but would never help her financially. Finally Kathleen's mom found her an apartment with a rent of \$500 per month. Her mom left her there with her 18 month old son and 2 month old daughter. All they had was one air mattress, a black and white TV and two packages of diapers.

Kathleen was collecting welfare which only paid her \$500 a month. She went through the newspapers looking for work. She immediately got a job at the local Dunkin Donuts because she convinced the manager that she would be a very hard worker. She found daycare through her Department of Social Services worker but it was across town. Every day, Kathleen would take her children on the bus for daycare and then go to work.

Kathleen was having a lot of flashbacks from the years of sexual abuse. She received counseling from the Safe Haven adult advocate for over six months. She has been able to recover from the trauma and is able to cope with any triggers that bring back the abuse. Kathleen has worked very hard for the past five years. She has moved on to a better job that allows her to support herself and her children.