

C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation



2009 FAMILY OF DISTINCTION The Tina Cottingham Family

Tina Cottingham is the single mother of three girls – Billie (age 16), Samantha (age 14), and Christina (age 1). Tina and her daughters were previously living in Edgar County, but chose to leave due to an abusive situation. They moved to Vandalia to stay with her mother.

Not only did Tina and her family have to reestablish themselves in a new community, but also their new living situation was overcrowded. In August 2008, a family member referred them to C.E.F.S.'s Fayette County Outreach Office. C.E.F.S. was able to enroll Tina and her family in the Transitional Housing Program, which provided them with many services, including housing, case management, and budgeting assistance. C.E.F.S. was also able to provide her family with Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds, free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) tax completion, and food pantry assistance.

Throughout her counseling with C.E.F.S. and the Continuing Recovery Center, Tina has met several milestones towards self-sufficiency. She was able to enroll her children in a new school district and create a new support system of friends and family. She is now employed at the Fayette County Hospital as a phlebotomist, and plans to attend Kaskaskia College to further her education in social services.



The Tina Cottingham Family are the recipients of the 2009 Family of Distinction Award.

Pictured Left to Right: Samantha, Tina, Billie, and Christina Cottingham