



NEICAC | FaDSS PROGRAM SUCCESS STORY BRIAN & KYNA WINTERS

Brian and Kyna Winters were referred to the FaDSS program by PROMISE JOBS and enrolled in October 2020. A family of 5, Brian and Kyna are the parents of three children, 7-year-old Robbie, 13-year-old Evelyn, and 17-year-old Scotty, who has special needs.

At enrollment, Kyna and Brian were facing adversity. Kyna was hospitalized due to complete liver failure. In order for Kyna to be allowed on the transplant list for a new liver, she would need to be alcohol-free for 6-months. At this time, both Kyna and Brian were unemployed due to Kyna's physical health barriers. Brian was also struggling with his health while caring for their children and ensuring their son, who has autism, was being taken care of as well.

Throughout their time in FaDSS, Brian and Kyna set goals in many different life domains, including, Income, Support of Child Development, Housing, Mental Health, Employment, Transportation, and Legal. Throughout their time in the program, they accessed several resources such as the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund, Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program, Head Start, Low-income Water Assistance Program and Embrace Iowa. They also accessed food pantries and clothing closets, and received assistance during holiday seasons, including having their family adopted for Christmas.

With each barrier Brian and Kyna faced, they kept their heads up, never allowing it to keep them down. They were motivated to do what they could to improve their lives. Kyna stopped drinking, which allowed her to be placed on the transplant list. She applied for Social Security Disability, at first being denied. With the help of an attorney, she won her case and started to receive steady monthly income.

Kyna fought to stay healthy, which required many trips to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City. She suffered a heart attack at home around Christmas time in 2021. Her heart had stopped due to a seizure caused by the medication she was taking for her liver. Kyna has now been in recovery for 3 years. Her health has improved to the point she no longer needs a liver transplant! Her appointments in Iowa City are now an annual check-up.

Brian has also made great strides. He improved his health and achieved employment at East Penn in Oelwein as an operator. Brian enjoys his job and has maintained his employment. September 2024 marked a full year with the company for Brian!

Brian and Kyna are current participants in the FaDSS Program. They continue working to achieve the goals they have for themselves and their family.



MISSION STATEMENT

Through dynamic partnerships, quality family services, advocacy, and education, NEICAC advances community development and improves social and economic conditions for individuals and families with limited resources.

VISION STATEMENT

Create inclusive communities with equitable access to resources and opportunities where all individuals and families thrive.

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