

## **Single Parent** *Success Story*

Maria, a 22-year old mother of a child under 3 years old, appeared at the Catholic Charities Food Pantry pregnant and homeless. Maria's underlying needs went far beyond just the apparent need for food. After providing her with food, the Catholic Charities Pantry teamed with the YWCA to provide Maria and her child with shelter and to connect her with ongoing programs to help her attain self-sufficiency.

While Maria was working through her problems, she attended parenting classes, and learned a trade through BOCES. She came to the pantry monthly for food assistance and attended the summer lunch program with her children. She also involved her children in the Broome County Library Reading Program.

From the support Maria was able to receive, she is now employed and is on her way to receiving an Associate's Degree from Broome Community College.

For 2008, more than \$80,900 of United Way donors' contributions have been allocated to Catholic Social Services to help support its pregnancy, parenting, adoption, and emergency assistance programs.