

*A lot can happen in a year...*

I recently read the following anonymous quote, "Isn't it crazy how we can look back on a year and realize how much everything has changed? The amount of people that have left your life, entered and stayed. The memories you won't forget and the moments you wish you did. Everything. It's crazy how all that happened in just one year." I can't help but think this is especially true for our children.

For the purpose of this article, I'm going to describe some of the changes our 18 year has experienced in less than a year since she has been with us. She arrived last August when she was 17, just before her first year of college. You may remember this young lady from our Christmas letter where she described the hurt she felt when her family did not do what was required for her and her sister to return home. She had just given up hope and began lying and getting into fights. Because of these behaviors, we were initially concerned that we may not be the right placement for her, but something about her and her situation tugged at our hearts so we decided to give it a shot. We quickly realized that Collins Home was the home this young lady needed. She has blessed us as much as we have blessed her. We are family.

In the nine months she has been with us, she has accomplished a lot. In her words, she has learned there are things she wants to accomplish and she needs to have a positive attitude to do them. She successfully completed her first year of college, worked a part time job, saved money, bought her first car and turned 18.

A couple of the goals this young lady has set is to become a nurse and be a role model for her younger sister. I have no doubt she will successfully obtain her nursing degree...and she is already a role model to her younger sister and the cottage sisters she has taken under her wing here at Collins Home.

As another school year winds down, houseparents and tutors proudly attend our children's awards programs. We are so pleased with their accomplishments and the resilience they display despite the changes they have experienced in a year.

We can't end this school year without thanking all the wonderful tutors and mentors who have helped our children with homework and special projects, took them on outings and loved them unconditionally. Prayerfully, their kind and generous hearts will change the life story of every Collins Home kid they have blessed with their compassion.