Sixteen is the age when most young adults are thinking about their first car, their first summer job or their first choice for college.

Jill had another concern when she was 16: she was worried about having her first child.

“At first, I had a hard time with it,” Jill says of those days and weeks after she learned she was pregnant. She was in her second year in high school and life was about to change dramatically.

That’s when she was referred to OUR PLACE in Manchester and began working with counselor Michele Cote. OUR PLACE mentors and educates young parents from pregnancy through the first three years of their child’s life.

Jill was admittedly scared and unsure of her future after learning she was pregnant. She knew she wanted to keep her child, but didn’t know what was next.

“When I first went there, I immediately felt more at ease with my situation,” Jill said.

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Hands That Help
CCNH Hand-in-Hand Project

Tony Poekert knows that pride can sometimes be a tricky thing. People who need help will not always ask for it or accept it because of their pride. He's learned to work around those barriers.

“It can be a hard sell,” Poekert says. “We all want to be independent and not burdens.”

Poekert has found ways to present help in a way that makes it easier for people to accept. That was the case during Hand-In-Hand’s recent work camp week organized out of the Littleton and Laconia district offices.

Betty was used to doing hard work, having supervised highway crews during her working days. She needed her house painted, but was hesitant to accept help. Poekert made a deal with her: A Hand-In-Hand crew of high school kids would do the work painting her house and she would be the supervisor. It worked.

“We had two teams on the project, one was all boys from one school and the other team was all girls from another school,” Poekert said. “It was really interesting. The girls looked at Betty as a role model. It was a really great growing experience.”

Poekert said he hopes the program eventually expands to all ten district offices, not only for the help it affords people in need, but the ways it strengthens communities, bridging the age gap of the people involved.

“We’re bringing together two groups of people who don’t necessarily know or trust each other. When they come together on a human level, it turns things around,” Poekert says.

A Chance to Live Peacefully
Immigration & Refugee Services

Upheaval and persecution are ways of life in some war-torn countries of Africa. Survival sometimes means leaving your home. That’s the way it was for Joseph.

He fled his home in central Africa, arriving in Manchester to go to college with little money, food or clothing. He couldn’t even afford a bus pass, so he walked to class. But he did have hope and the dream of a new life and a chance to live peacefully. Thanks to your support, Catholic Charities New Hampshire’s Immigration and Refugee Legal Services is helping Joseph make his dream a reality with food assistance, clothing and some basic furnishings for his apartment.

We have also worked on his application for political asylum and a work permit which will allow him to become more self-sufficient.

Grants
Help to Move Lives Forward

We would like to recognize the following groups for their support:

Alice J. Reen Trust (Parish & Community Services) · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · $15,000
Cardinal Health Foundation (Trinity Health Partners) · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · $7,500
Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation (Immigration & Refugee Services) · · · · · · · $10,000

Build a Legacy of Hope

Catholic Charities relies on the generosity of individuals like you. Consider leaving a gift in your will to help us continue our mission. For more information about making a legacy gift, contact Lisa at 603-669-3030.