

Headband Hero

When we think of heroes, names like Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman rush to the forefront of our minds. We envision colorful tights, flowing capes, bulging muscles and witty catch phrases. Sometimes we forget that seemingly ordinary, everyday people can be heroes too. They are the moms who put everything on the line daily for their children. And what is the uniform of these mighty warriors you may ask?! Many times it is something as modest as a headband.

This story of everyday heroism is one of a mother who fights past demons and puts her fears aside to build a better and brighter relationship with her children. When Marcie Petty, Families First coordinator for the Visitation Station program, first met Susan, she recalls Susan's fear of visiting with her children. Her struggle with addiction coupled with her children's potential resentment contributed to her uncertainty when arranging a visit. She feared rejection by her children and did not want to bear that pain.

Despite her worries, she put aside her personal fears and showed up to the visitation to prove to her children that she was ready to turn her life around for them. Susan picked up her headband, settled it on her head, and marched through the doors to face her children.

With the help of Family First staff members, Susan played a game that is often used in visitation to encourage families to engage in conversation despite apparent tension. To Susan's pleasure and surprise, the children were thrilled to play the game with her. The family found themselves enjoying one another's company for the first time in months. This moment was enough to give Susan the courage to get the help she needed to battle her addictions and to become the mother she had always wanted to be.