

## The Baxter Family

Chris Baxter is a 16 year-old young man who has been in residential placement for the past four years. He is working on anger management issues, getting his GED, and becoming independent. Chris is most determined to get a job. Since he is only 16 and without a diploma or GED, finding work has been difficult. As a first step, Chris worked on a co-production contract with YAP to help recruit new businesses into the Time Bank.

Chris' contract consisted of volunteering 6 hours of labor at "The Rink", a local business in his neighborhood to demonstrate how Time Banking works. In addition he would write a small narrative about volunteering and how it affects people. In exchange, Chris was able to negotiate a reward. He wanted to be able to buy his mother a candle and balloons for her birthday. YAP used its flex fund to purchase the balloons. Chris "cashed" in his hours in exchange for YAP agreeing to make the purchase. A mixed economy exchange (time banking and money) was used to provide incentives for Chris to participate.

Chris' time banking arrangement was so successful that the local business not only joined the Time Bank, but also asked Chris to stay on with them and work for payment. YAP enrolled Chris in its supported work program to help support his wage. Chris was able to build a positive work ethic and gain work experience.

In addition to Chris' work experience with Time Banking, his mother, Amanda, requested additional help from the Time Bank for a specific goal that she identified as part of the family individualized services plan. During an outburst, Chris shattered his bedroom window. The family did not have the resources to replace the window or to fix it. Amanda insisted that Chris be responsible to paying for it. In addition, the mom came up with the idea of finding a person in the community who could teach Chris how to fix the window. All parties agreed upon this restorative approach. The YAP Time Bank Coordinator accessed the Time Bank to find a match, someone in the bank who can earn time hours in helping to teach Chris how to fix the broken window. A local Time Bank member who does construction agreed to help teach Chris how to fix the window.

**Community Collaborations:** "The Rink", YAP, Community Time Bank Member

**Challenges:** Chris completed the 6 Time Bank hours, but did not complete the written narrative. We went back and revised his co-production contract. Instead of doing the written narrative, Chris agreed to participate and tell about his experience in a local news article. Both Chris and his mother signed a media release. Chris quit his job after 4 months.

**Case Update:** Chris is currently looking for employment and has begun the process of talking with his former employer at "The Rink" to get his job back. While having a large amount of free time, Chris made some poor choices. Chris used his mother and step-father's bank account number to call 1-900 sex chat line numbers. He also stole the bank

account number from his grandmother's account to do the same thing. Chris accumulated a bill of over \$500 from making the toll calls. Criminal charges were pressed by his step father and Chris was due to appear in court. Around the same time, Chris committed another crime, this time against his YAP Advocate. Chris went to the cellular phone store and pretended to be his advocate and asked the clerk to change his phone account to a different phone. He was successful and now had his personal phone being paid for through the Advocate's account. Once this was discovered, charges were pressed again, this time by his advocate, and Chris received appearance tickets for identity theft and criminal impersonation. In an attempt to be pro active with the court system, a team meeting was held with YAP and the family and youth. During the child and family team meeting, Chris and his family developed a plan to address Chris' current behaviors as well as a plan to restoratively make amends to the people his choices have effected. The plan was to approach each of the four victims (mother, step-father, grandmother, and advocate) and offer two separate opportunities for Chris to restoratively make amends to his victims.

First Chris agreed to participate in victim offender mediation with each of the identified victims if they were willing. Chris identified his Aggression Replacement Therapy (ART) counselor as a resource to help facilitate victim/offender mediation. The ART counselor agreed to participate. All but one victim has agreed to the mediation. Chris has completed mediation with his mother and grandmother, and the next mediation is scheduled.

Secondly, each of the four victims was given the opportunity to suggest ways Chris will help the community through the Time Bank. Chris agreed to complete 40 hours of community service to be completed through the Time Bank. The victims were then offered the opportunity to determine how/where Chris would complete his hours. Each victim accessed the Time Bank and picked locations or members to receive 5 hours of services from Chris. One victim chose hours helping a local food pantry to give Chris a sense of what it is like to not have enough money to eat or feed a family: Another victim chose his five hours be used helping Chris's family with yard work that needed to be completed: Another victim chose for Chris to complete his five hours helping YAP since YAP was helping advocate for him with the courts. Chris has currently completed 10 of his 40 hours. The family continues to support Chris in the community. At the most recent child and family team meeting, the family was optimistic regarding Chris and his efforts to make amends for his choices. The Advocate in place is spending time with Chris ensuring he stays on track and completes his agreed upon service hours.

Chris has not yet received his ruling from the Judge. His hopes are that the work he is doing in the community for the victims he offended against will show the judge his remorse and his willingness to be accountable for his choices and behaviors.