

# Lifeline in a time of COVID

The voice on the other end of the line was unfamiliar, but the desperation it conveyed, sadly was all too familiar. Brenda, a HIPPY home visitor with North Range Behavioral Health knew the sound of a parent deeply worried about their child.

For more than a year, Brenda had worked with Leticia (name changed) and her two daughters (ages three and one). A few times, when visits coincided with his days off, Leticia had introduced Brenda to her husband Michael. Now, Michael was calling and was clearly struggling. He explained that Leticia had been rushed to the hospital with COVID and that he had unknowingly brought the virus into their home having been infected (though asymptomatic) at the meat packing plant where he worked. The plant had subsequently been shut down, leaving him without a job to care for his two daughters while Leticia struggled in the hospital. Without family in the area, Michael reached out for help from Brenda, knowing that she was someone Leticia trusted and who had been to his home and knew his daughters.



The call came in during the summer when HIPPY is out on break. This did not stop Brenda from immediately reaching out to connect the father with the resources he needed. She helped him to secure diapers, wipes, food and other essential items. Brenda even helped him to register for the unemployment benefits he needed to continue supporting the family.

Fortunately, after a full month in the hospital Leticia was able to go back home. This fall, she and her daughters resumed working with Brenda as part of the HIPPY program. Michael is back working at the packing plant which reopened. Home visiting is about so much more than delivering a curriculum, it is about connections and a trusted relationship. For 30 years, Parent Possible and Colorado's home visitors have been inspiring everyday magic – moments which reveal the power of connection and community.