

helping me
keep my head up



photo (l-r): Michael Williams with
Fatherhood consultant Nick Corsi.

Michael Williams knows firsthand how quickly unexpected events can wreak havoc on a family. Earlier this year a complicated family dynamic left Williams and his wife in legal trouble. Within a few short weeks, the family had lost their home and their car, and Williams had lost his job.

“The whole world just came crashing down on us,” says Mike. “It all happened so fast, and none of it was anything we could have expected. It was unreal.”

The legal problems the couple faced, as well as the loss of a home and income, left the family stressed and depressed. “It was something that affected all of us, including the kids,” says Mike. “They didn’t understand what was going on, and even though we tried to separate them from the events, they were anxious and worried.”

Mike was referred to CDR’s Fatherhood program and soon found the support and guidance he so desperately needed. Working with Fatherhood consultant Nick Corsi, Mike learned techniques to help his children deal with the trauma of a situation no one in the family could control.

“Nick helped me keep my head up. He was my support and helped me learn how to be the best dad I could be under the circumstances.”

— Miike Williams

Nick also recommended CDR’s Parents as Teachers program (PAT) to Mike’s wife. Soon Delisha was working with a PAT family consultant on ways to keep their children engaged in learning and working on

developmental skills. Their youngest daughter, age three, enrolled in Developmental Playgroup, where she made friends and learned while she played. The parents also received tips on free places to take their kids locally for family fun—a critical step in relieving family stress.

“Life was pretty blurry for us,” says Mike. “But Nick was on the roller coaster with us the whole time. He helped us keep our family together.”

Even with the support they needed, there were times when the Williamses thought their troubles would never end.

“And then the smoke cleared,” says Mike. The family found a wonderful home in a neighborhood they loved, and they found reliable transportation. Best of all, the legal fog finally began to lift.

One spring day the couple left the courthouse together with Nick by their side. With their legal troubles now behind them, the parents were relieved and hopeful. Then Mike’s phone rang.

“It was a job offer. I was offered a job that very day and was to start work the next day,” he explains excitedly.

Even as they work to get back on their feet, the Williams family is making plans for the future. “We want to take the kids to Disney World,” says Mike. “Maybe in a year or two. We’re still putting the pieces together, but we’re planning.”

And for others facing uncertain times, Williams has this to say: “Not everyone is going to face problems as intense as mine, but I wish everyone had the support I had. I had a friend in my corner, helping me stay strong, helping me keep my head up, helping me keep my family together.”