

My name is Hannah Abell; I am a sophomore at Wyandotte High School. My freshman year, I came to Ms. Mersman needing clothes. At the time, I was wearing clothes that I borrowed from my stepmom. Since then, we have built a relationship over communication or working in general. Ms. Mersman has helped my family and I a lot. During the time Ms. Mersman and I have worked together, I overcome several challenges including a transition from living with my real parents to going into foster care, a visit to the hospital for suicidal thoughts, depression, and other challenges with family and siblings. Along with checking in with me at school, Ms. Mersman also checked in with me during the summer, where we went to eat or just hung out to see if I was doing okay or just supporting me through things. Communities In Schools has done extra activities like sending my foster family to a Royals game and bringing extra food over Spring Break for my real family. Ms. Mersman also attends my foster care court hearings. Ms. Mersman has helped me find different activities to do after school to help me to relieve stress before going home. During Christmas time of 2013 and 2014, I also have been adopted anonymously through Communities In Schools and my family also has gotten gifts. Thanks to the support of Ms. Mersman and CIS, I am currently ranked number one out of my sophomore class of 357 students. I have become more successful academically and in life.