



## HOW KEYS CHANGED THE COURSE OF OUR LIVES:

### THE MILLER FAMILY

**The turning point in many of our lives came when someone we respected and admired declared, "I believe in you." A KEYS mentor can be that person for a Katy ISD student. They are guides, teachers, coaches, listeners, role models, advocates, cheerleaders and more.**

When a student is identified by a teacher, counselor or parent as a candidate, the campus KEYS liaison goes to work searching for a mentor. A perfect match can result in a lifetime bond that empowers the student to rewrite their own narrative, renewing their confidence and sparking hope one hour, one week at a time.

Rebecca Miller, a single mother working to finish school and provide for her two children, turned to the KEYS program as an additional source of support. Her son was matched with his first mentor in the first grade. "I knew Collin needed a male role model. We have very few family members and they're all spread across the country. So, my kids did not have a lot of adult love outside our home," said Rebecca.

Collin's younger sister, Kamryn, soon followed with a mentor of her

own when she was in second grade. Both kids met weekly on campus with their mentors, continuing with KEYS through graduation. "We were incredibly blessed with having mentors that were in it for the long haul. And literally at 20 and 21, my kids are still in contact with their mentors, and they have something for life. It's been so good for another person to love my kids," revealed Rebecca.

She admits her children were struggling socially and academically, and had to overcome the fear of being judged and feeling inadequate as a parent. "It was very difficult for me to say I needed help, that my kids needed help, because I couldn't find it on my own," she recalled. "But I came to the conclusion that having another adult to love your kid can never hurt them." Along the way, Rebecca worked closely with KEYS liaisons who facilitated the process and kept the lines of communication open to ease any fears or concerns.

Collin and Kamryn's futures are bright and Rebecca knows without a doubt that their mentors made a difference. "I believe fully when they're older and are in a place where they can be a mentor themselves, they absolutely will because it was such a blessing for them."



COLLIN MILLER AND HIS MENTOR, KENNY



KAMRYN MILLER AND HER MENTOR, TAMMY

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WHEN YOUR KIDS DON'T HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THEIR LIVES, THEY BENEFIT SO MUCH FROM HAVING AN EXTRA ADULT CONSISTENTLY SHOW UP. IT GIVES THEM NEEDED STABILITY, THAT SOMEONE OUTSIDE OF MOM COULD COME IN ON A REGULAR BASIS AND BE PART OF THEIR LIVES.

**- REBECCA MILLER**  
KEYS PROGRAM PARENT

To learn more, visit [www.katyisd.org/dept/pie/Pages/KEYSMentoring.aspx](http://www.katyisd.org/dept/pie/Pages/KEYSMentoring.aspx)