

FAMILY *matters*

CHANGING OUR LIVES FOR THE BETTER

Louise Barr, Parent

Note: Glenn Ferdinand is a Behavioral Therapist with HRC's Family Behavioral Services



Life is happier for parent Louise Barr and son Shaun, thanks to strategies learned from therapist Glenn Ferdinand.

Glenn Ferdinand has worked miracles with my son and I am extremely grateful to him.

My 12-year-old son, Shaun Chang, has autism and has always had some problems with aggression. Unfortunately, these problems became extreme about a year ago. Although I have been able to physically control him in the past, his increasing size and strength made me fear for my safety. His attacks were serious enough that I actually had to call the sheriffs to my home. He also started to attack people when we went out in

public, and even with medication the situation was becoming impossible. I was faced with the possibility that he would soon have to go into some sort of group home, as I would no longer be able to handle him.

When Glenn first came, he did a very thorough interview, then came up with several strategies. I confess that I was quite skeptical about their effectiveness, as I found them rather counter-intuitive. I'm afraid that overcoming my resistance was probably half the job for Glenn, but he persisted in getting me to try things, one step at a time. He modeled ways to handle various situations, and I was able to see just how well they worked with Shaun.

Glenn also went above and beyond the call of duty. In the beginning, he called to check on us between our appointments. He would also mull over a particular problem we were having and would call with new and better solutions. He said I could call him any time, and I was very glad to be able to do that the few times things got really bad. He would calm me down and give me a way to handle the situation. He showed real concern, and his professionalism, depth of knowledge and, most importantly, effectiveness have really impressed me.

With no exaggeration, I truly see Glenn Ferdinand as a modern-day Annie Sullivan, the "miracle worker" who was able to make such a huge change in Helen Keller's life. Glenn's methods have given Shaun a more normal life, and just as important, a happier life. In fact, he has changed all of our lives very much for the better. So when I say I am extremely grateful for what he has done, I'm sure you can see why. ■