



### *What are the benefits of college?*

FRIEND:

Hey, what's up? Are you ready to go shopping?

TEEN MOM:

No.

FRIEND:

Why? Wait, what happened?

TEEN MOM:

I just don't know how much longer I can do this. I'm just so tired. I just feel stuck in this same spot that I've been living in. After paying for rent, groceries, diapers...I can barely make ends meet. My paycheck disappears within minutes of me cashing it. There's gotta be something more that I can do.

FRIEND:

Wait. What do you mean?

TEEN MOM:

I just feel like I should be doing more for me and Levi. I mean, I've actually started to miss school. How crazy is that? Missing school?

FRIEND:

Well what about taking some night classes?

TEEN MOM:

I've thought about that, but who would take care of Levi?

FRIEND:

You're parents have always helped you. Why not ask them?

TEEN MOM:

I don't know - I just don't want to burden them anymore.

FRIEND:

Trust me. I doubt they will think it's a burden to watch their grandson.

TEEN MOM:

Yeah, I guess you're right. I just know I need to go to college. I can't have Levi growing up with a mom who barely finished high school as a role model. Plus...I don't want to be poor!

FRIEND:

Oh stop it! You're a good mom. But, college might actually be the way to go.

TEEN MOM:

Yeah it sounds like the right thing, but does it actually work out? I can't take any time away from being a mom. That wouldn't be fair to Levi.

FRIEND:

Well what about those night classes I mentioned. You can spend all day with him then or you could take some online classes from home too.

TEEN MOM:

Yeah that all sounds great, but I don't have the money for that.

FRIEND:

My uncle works at the tribal water department and he says people with a college degree usually make more money than those who don't! So it would definitely pay off. Literally!

TEEN MOM:

I guess it makes sense. I could do so much more for Levi if I had a better job and made more money, if I got a job that is.

FRIEND:

You could totally get a job! Even people with two-year degree have a higher chance of making more money.

TEEN MOM:

Ah, just think of what I could do with more money! We could move into an apartment in a safer neighborhood... I could get a decent car...one that actually runs! Wait... is that being selfish?

FRIEND:

No, it wouldn't hurt for you to want something for yourself for a change. And, you could take Levi in your dream van to all the Powwows.

But seriously, I think college might mean more opportunities for you and Levi.

TEEN MOM:

You're right! {Loudly, then realizing her son is sleeping right next to her}

You're right. {Whispers}

I just want to break this chain in my family of not going to college, to show Levi someday that it's possible.

FRIEND:

So do you have any idea on what you want to do someday?

TEEN MOM:

I don't know. I guess I'd like to do something that helps people. I want to be like my mom. She's always helping others, always giving. Maybe a social worker? Wait, what about a counselor....or a nurse!

FRIEND:

You could really do that! You've always been there for me.

TEEN MOM:

Thanks! Honestly, what would I do without you? You're the best.

FRIEND:

So...just to clear here, you are definitely going to college?

TEEN MOM:

Yeah.

FRIEND:

Ah. Okay, good deal. So we need an outfit and then you need some shoes and then you need some new coats. Okay. I will pick you up in like 10 minutes. How about that?

TEEN MOM:

Okay. Bye.

NARRATOR:

There are so many benefits to having a college degree! Not only will it benefit you, but it will also benefit your family.

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