



SOUTH TAHOE HIGH SCHOOL

1735 Lake Tahoe Blvd.

• South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 •

(530) 541-4111 •

<http://sths.ltusd.org>

Pat Harnett, Asst. Principal ☞

Chad Houck, Principal

☞ Justin Zunino, Asst. Principal

In the words of the student:

"You've made the biggest mistake in your life."

"Your whole life is ruined now."

"You're a disappointment."

"Did you guys hear? ----- is pregnant at 16."

But it wasn't the biggest mistake in my life, my whole life wasn't ruined, and I'm not a disappointment to anyone. It took me two years to learn how to accept and love myself even though my family, friends, and even strangers critiqued me and made me feel my worst. My family was ashamed to even be my family. For the last 2 months of my pregnancy, I wouldn't come out of my room because my family was embarrassed of me and wanted no one to see me. I even went on independent study for school and I felt isolated, alone, or at least I thought I was. I didn't realize that I had my son and I fought my hardest every day for him. I didn't want him to feel the sadness I felt. From the beginning I felt like adoption was best for him because I had no one. His father left once he found out, my family didn't want me, I had no one and I wanted him to have the best life in the world. Once he was born his adopted parents came in and they left with him, I felt even worse than before. I needed him so I called his adopted parents and told them that I needed him back. We met in Sacramento in a parking lot in Target. At this point my mom began to treat me better than before. But as ----- grew older the worst my mother got. She had so much anger towards me and would make me feel horrible. She's changed and has apologized for everything she's ever said to me and now is my biggest supporter. When ----- turned 1, his father filed for full custody, his father never tried helping me out or even asking if I needed help and all of a sudden he filed for full custody, it didn't make any sense. I attended court for 2 months. I made my case and I won. He later on admitted to the judge that he was only trying to fight for custody rights because his father and sister wanted him to, not because he wanted to. Now I know what you're thinking, does she still go to school?

She replies... "of course I do." She was very involved in high school sports and has a 3.4 GPA. ----- will be attending LTCC in the fall.