

Anoka County Health Care Pathways Success Story

Martha

“Life is good.”

Martha is a 23 year old single mother of a three year old child. She worked a few different jobs in retail and fast food but nothing that could support her family so she received additional support through MFIP. That is where she heard about Anoka County's Health Care Pathways Program through MN FastTRAC. She had always wanted to be a nurse but did not know how to start or how she could afford it. She asked her MFIP job counselor if she could do the training to get her CNA to earn a wage to support her family and her request was approved.



Martha attended the orientation and was not able to pass the reading assessment at the required skill level to be accepted into the class. She enrolled with Metro North ABE to improve her skills and applied a second time for the FastTRAC program. This time she met the academic requirements and enrolled into the class. Martha was able to get child care assistance during class. It was not easy for Martha but she studied hard and she noted that the Bridge Class prepared her for the college classes and the integrated training (support from the ABE instructor) was very helpful.

Martha passed her CNA state exam and is now working full time as a Nursing Assistant making \$12.75 an hour. She is also attending Anoka Ramsey Community College working towards her RN degree. She loves school. She said “Life is good”. She is no longer on MFIP and happy she does not have to stress about turning in paperwork and job searching. She said the Health Care Pathways Program gave her confidence and knowledge on how to go back to school. She is excited that she can now buy her daughter the things she wants and is working towards her goal of being a nurse.

