

Anoka County Health Care Pathways Success Story

Patricia

“Yes, I did it.”

My name is Patricia Rice. I moved to Anoka County in March 2012 from a shelter in Hennepin County. I am a single mother with two children. I met my MFIP job counselor, Denise and she gave me that opportunity to complete a paid work experience at Benedictine Health Center of Innsbruck nursing home in New Brighton. I always wanted to be in the health care field since I was 14. I enjoyed working with the residents.



My counselor told me about the Health Care Pathways Program where I could take CNA classes - starting in August. I was so excited. I was still having problems with housing, not making enough money to survive but I was ready to begin a new life for me and my babies. I went to school every day. I even had to put my job on hold at times so I can complete my homework because finishing school was my number one priority. It wasn't easy at times. I wanted to give up and quit but with the help and support from Amy, the Navigator, Diane, ABE Instructor and my Job Counselor, Denise I kept going. I really thank them because this wasn't easy.

I finished school November 13th. It was the scariest day ever... I had two tests for my CNA and did not want to fail. I was excited as I passed and attended graduation! Benedictine Health Center of Innsbruck offered me a full time job as a CNA. I start December 4, 2012. They were behind me 100 percent and couldn't wait until I finished school so they could hire me.

Yes, I did it. I found better housing and will be moving January 1, 2013. Life is wonderful. I will be ending this year with happiness and joy. I thank the Lord above for bringing me to Anoka County. I've accomplish more in eight months then I did in years. I thank the Minnesota FastTRAC Health Care Pathways Program for helping me because I didn't have money to go back to school. So to everyone that has a dream and wants to be successful in life: don't give up! I did it with working, going to school and taking care of two children. Coming from nothing and working hard for what makes you happy is just priceless. I'm so glad I stuck with this.

Thank you for this opportunity!

