



My success story

I had just graduated from Woodbury High School when I joined the youth program. It was recommended by my counselor since I didn't have any post-high school plans. I wanted to go to college but I couldn't afford it, and I had just been kicked out of the house. I had nowhere to go, but luckily for me, a friend and her family accepted me into their

household. Up to this day I call them my angels on earth, and I will forever be grateful to them. When I joined the youth program, it was a dream come true, especially when I found out about their tuition assistance. Without them I would have never gotten the chance to be where I am today.

This program also helped me to get my very first job. The first placement was at the R.H. Stafford Library, my second was at Woodbury City Hall, and the last was at the Peace of Mind Daycare. I enjoyed working at all of my job placements, and I had great experiences from all of them. I was a book shelfer at the Library, my main task was to return checked-in books and other library materials to designated locations. I also offered necessary help to search and verify library materials. I learned a lot from this job, it helped my organizational skills, which I find very helpful now. My experience at City Hall exposed me to many technological skills, my tasks were to compile documents and organize data. I also had to sort through files in order to categorize specific data. I analyzed and recorded data from documents and recorded them electronically through word processing. I prepared files and documents to be processed through office machinery and also sorted and distributed outgoing mail. My time at the Peace of Mind Daycare was challenging because it was my first time working with kids, and I had to learn quickly. I was an assistant teacher. My tasks were to help keep the kids active, play games, and help them learn basic concepts. I also helped keep them safe and care for their everyday needs, such as changing diapers, feeding, dressing and grooming.

I believe that the skills that I have acquired through this program, have made me to be an outstanding employee. I have not been unemployed ever since I started my first job placement, because this program really prepared me well for the workforce. I attended all of their workshops and I learned so many skills from those workshops, skills like financial planning, interpersonal communication, job seeking, interviewing, and decision-making.

There are so many good things I can say about this program, it was through them I got my driver's license. They paid for all my driving lessons and also helped me find good car insurance. My dream job has always been to become a Physician's Assistant. This program was a stepping stone to fulfill that future dream one day. It gave me the opportunity to gain lifelong experiences in the real world. The Youth Program does phenomenal work by providing job search assistance, paid work experience, assistance with tuition costs, and training opportunities to low-income and/or at-risk young adults. I have gained valuable knowledge, and work experience that are critical for my future success.

I am currently a senior at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with a Biology major, emphasis in Biomedical. I will be graduating in December of 2017. I plan on pursuing my education to be become a Physician's Assistant. I have had the opportunity to recently started my own non-profit organization (www.allforsalone.org). During my undergraduate career, I have come to realize the importance of education as the most powerful driving force in life, because it expands your worldview. I want to give the underprivileged kids the opportunity to be educated because I believe it enables one to understand the key fundamentals of life such as their rights as a human being, and their freedom of choice.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Youth Program for making all of my achievements possible. Thank you for giving me a second chance. I had amazing and life changing results from this program. Thanks to all the staff for doing such amazing work. My advice to other youth in this program, always communicate with the youth staff, don't assume that they won't help or understand. You are not alone. Don't take things for granted, work hard and don't give up on your dreams. Life may not be fair but it gets better if you keep pushing. To other youth that do not know about this program, if you think you qualify for this program, my advice is to take advantage of this great opportunity. Life gets better when you seek for help.