

CPCA NEWS

A Look at Program Year 16-17



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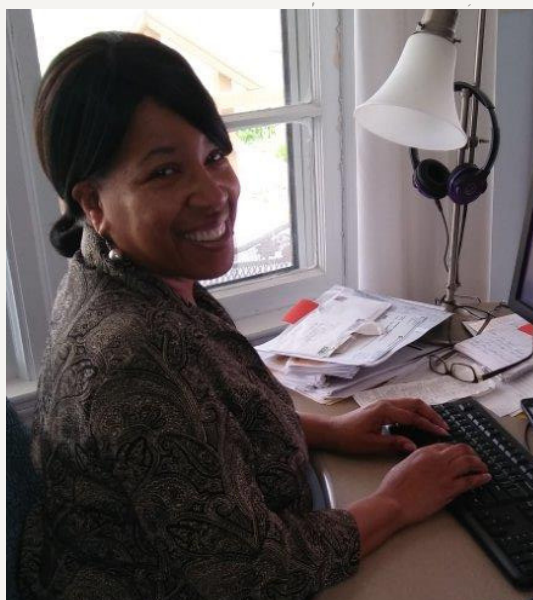
CPCA Gets a Website

THE ROAD TO BECOMING A TRUCK DRIVER

Joseph H. is a 29-year-old male that came into the Orange County NCWorks Career Center in Chapel Hill seeking assistance with funding for truck driving. He met with Renee Harris, a WIOA Career Advisor and she discussed eligibility, assessment and required documentation. When he came to us he was working as a parking lot attendant 25 to 30 hours a week making \$10.00 per hour. He shared that he wanted to attend a truck driving school and receive his

CDL license so he could become successful financially. This training and becoming employed as a trucker would allow him to travel and see areas of the country that he had not seen before. Renee provided him with several training options. He completed several assessments and proper documentation was completed. He qualified for our Adult Program. He was enrolled at Carolina Trucking Academy on 02-09-17 and completed training four weeks later. Joseph also received recognition for being an outstanding model student. Mr. Gray, owner of the trucking school rarely gives this award to his students. He was proud to announce that Joseph had completed the class and achieved this special recognition

as a Scholar Student by paying attention to detail, having perfect attendance and making high scores on all his test. When Joseph completed his training, he immediately began his job search and was offered a full-time truck driving position with Midwest Coast Transport (MCT) based in South Dakota. After he completed the company training by completing a specified number of over the road hours, he was given his own truck with a base salary of 35,000 with full benefits. No more working as a parking lot attendant. He is earning a salary that has allowed him to become self-sufficient and he is now traveling across the USA.*



WIOA DW SUCCESS STORY PY 16

When Yvonne C. came to the Orange County Career Center she had been laid off from New View Publication. After twenty years as an administrative assistant she found that she could not find employment in her field. She was referred by DWS staff to WIOA Career Advisor, Renee Harris. She was fifty-six at the time, had been searching for employment for several months, and was hesitant to consider school. After much discussion of available training, in-demand employment occupations and assessment of present skills, they both agreed that Yvonne needed additional training. Her employment had provided her with experience as an administrative assistant but she lacked any kind of current certifications. She qualified for the Dislocated Worker Program and was enrolled 01-16-15. She was advised to meet with her school advisor to discuss and plan her Spring 2015 schedule. At the last meeting with Renee before school started she appeared very confident and excited about her new beginning. She started Alamance Community College on 01-08-15 in the Business Administration curricula and she will graduate in May 2017. In two years she has accomplished so much. She went from unemployed to employed in a couple of months, and soon she will be awarded an Associate degree.

She is now employed at Marian Cheek Jackson Center, as an Associate Administrator, earning a rewarding wage, 25-30 hours a week. Once she graduates in May, her salary will increase and she will become a full-time employee with full benefits. CPCA is very proud of her hard work and dedication and wish her the very best for her future years.*

CAREER ADVISOR AWARD, SECOND YEAR IN A ROW



Congratulations to WIOA Orange County Adult & Dislocated Worker Case Manager, Renee Harris, for receiving the Career Advisor of the year award for the second year in a row at the Regional Partnership Workforce Development Board Annual Banquet held on June 15, 2017 at Pinewood Country Club in Asheboro. Ms. Harris' dedication and encouragement has made a difference in the lives of her clients and the surrounding community.*

CSBG SUCCESS STORY PY 16 DURHAM

LaShania D. was enrolled in CSBG on June 10, 2016. She is married with a household of 7. The immediate goal for the family was for LaShania and her husband to prepare for better employment and for the family to find more suitable housing. In the interim, LaShania needed to find employment for additional household income to help her husband provide for the needs of her family. The ultimate goals were for the couple to complete training, secure gainful employment and become homeowners.



There were many challenges that the family needed to overcome. The family struggled with long term unemployment and income loss, inadequate day care, and housing and financial concerns. CSBG assisted in resolving most of those barriers. The family received assistance needed to stabilize the household and was provided with options and advocacy concerning home ownership and credit repair. CSBG also assisted with tuition for job training and child care. Staff also encouraged, guided and supported the couple as they worked their way through prioritizing and managing concerns. The achievements made by the family with the support of CSBG are considerable. Day care options were explored and suitable alternatives were found. LaShania is currently researching training opportunities that will provide her with better income and flexibility, and her husband is in the process of completing truck driving training. Both LaShania and her husband have secured full time employment above the poverty level. Their current combined household income is \$67,762.46.

LaShania and her husband are looking forward to what the future holds for them and are optimistic that they will achieve anything they set their minds to strive for.*

KINDA NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



On January 1, 2017, we welcomed the agency's new Executive Director, Natasha J. Elliott. Ms. Elliott has 13 years of experience at CPCA, including 9 years as the Finance Director. We are very happy to have a knowledgeable leader on board to guide us for years to come.*

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

After 30 years of outstanding service and leadership to CPCA, WIOA Director Faye Hall has decided it's time for her to retire. Her last day will be on June 30, 2017. We are sad to see her go; however, she deserves it for going above and beyond to grow the WIOA program and serve many individuals and families by helping them to achieve their educational and employment goals. Ms. Hall will be deeply missed.*



MY WEATHERIZATION EXPERIENCE

Hi, my name is Ms. L. My experience with Weatherization was great. I received a call from the Weatherization Department at CPCA to schedule an appointment to start doing some work on my house. First, they came and checked my Heating and A/C system. They explained to me the performance of my system. Then, they came and started working on my house (I got a bit scared to be honest). But one thing I can tell you is that I have felt the difference in my house since day one. I was watching the crew team putting insulation, vapor barrier, and air seals under and above my house; just everywhere. They also insulated my attic and installed a new exhaust fan in my bathroom. They replaced the hose in the back of my dryer and I also received a new refrigerator. I was so excited. God bless this program. I have no words to explain how much of a difference they made in my house. I'm warmer now. Before, I was so cold in this little house. I'm so thankful to Central Piedmont Community Action (CPCA) and all its staff, thanks again and God Bless you all.*



Hi, my name is Ms. T. My experience with Weatherization was wonderful and all I can say is thank you all. A couple of years ago it was a nightmare. Very hot in the summer time and too cold in the winter time. I didn't know what to do about paying utility bills to be hot in my house and really cold in the winter time. I really don't know what I was paying for. Then I got a call from the Weatherization Department at Central Piedmont Community Action (CPCA) changed my life. They called to let me know that I was getting a brand new heating unit. Can you believe it, a brand new system with central air. Oh my God that was incredible. But that's not all.



After they installed my Heating System they called again to schedule a date to do some work in my house. I got new insulation in my floors, attic and all around. Also, they put a new fan in my bathroom (Hahaha, I don't get foggy in there any more). Also, they air sealed all those little gaps around my house where air was sneaking in and they gave me a new refrigerator. It's just too much for me to explain. Now I can sit in my living room and be warm all the time and can't wait for next summer. Thank you very much for all you guys did for me.*





CSBG SUCCESS STORY PY 16 CHATHAM

Dawne H. was married with 3 children when she enrolled in CSBG. Dawne received SSI and nominal child support for her children. Dawne worked as an on-call nurses aide but was struggling to meet basic living expenses. Dawne wanted to pursue additional training to enhance her employment opportunities and earning potential to better provide for her family. Dawne did not have the resources or support to achieve this goal.

CSBG assisted Dawne to enroll in practical nursing training at Central Carolina Community College. The good news was diminished by the fact that Dawne did not have the full approval of her husband. He felt she was neglecting the family by participating in training. This was very discouraging to Dawne; however, with reassurance from CSBG she maintained the resolve to complete training.

CSBG provided Dawne with continual moral support as well as assistance with educational expenses, electric bills, natural gas for heating and cooking, gas for traveling to school, tires to replace unsafe ones, and nutritious food. With this support Dawne thrived in her nursing classes.

Dawne proudly earned her degree without missing a single class! Dawne is currently employed with Chatham Hospital earning above poverty wages with a full benefits package. She has increased her annual household income from \$18,600 to \$65,880. Dawne is so very pleased with her decision to obtain her nursing degree and she is thankful to CSBG for supporting her and for assisting with needed expenses along the way.*



CSBG SUCCESS STORY PY 16 ORANGE

Olivia C. was a single and unemployed mother and full-time student at Durham Technical Community College when she was enrolled in the CSBG Self Sufficiency Program on August 29, 2014.

Olivia had limited resources and weighty expenses which caused her much anxiety and discouragement. At that time Olivia had concluded she would have to drop out of the nursing program and forfeit all of her hard work because she did not see how she would be able to survive financially.

Olivia voiced her concerns and staff informed her that the program could provide limited financial assistance to help her catch up and alleviate the overwhelming stress that was she was experiencing. Olivia was provided with assistance with past due rent and utility bills and was provided with counseling on money management. The program also assisted Olivia with educational expenses such as tuition and books, transportation repairs and gas to travel back and forth to classes. Olivia was so relieved for the support and assistance that she received. She applied herself fully to her training. Olivia completed the registered nursing program in May 2015. The next goal was to pass the state licensure exam.



CSBG assisted Olivia with the cost of the exam that she had previously taken and failed twice. Staff encouraged Olivia to remain positive and to forget about what was in the past. On the day of the third and final attempt, staff called Olivia to give her a final encouraging pep talk. Olivia was very appreciative to receive the call and contacted staff later that day with the wonderful news that she passed the exam and was finally a licensed nurse.

The hard work was not yet over nor was the discouragement that often depressed Olivia. She felt that employers wanted young people fresh out of college and not an adult with history and baggage. Staff encouraged Olivia that her experience only made her a better candidate and that what mattered was that skill and talents that she could offer employers.

Staff assisted Olivia with job leads and helped her prepare for multiple job fairs. Olivia was also referred to the Career Center Employment Specialist for additional support with the job search.

Olivia eventually accepted a full time position as a registered nurse with Duke University Health System at an annual salary of \$43,355 with a full range of benefits. Olivia can hardly believe how far she has come. One thing she knows for certain is that it would not have been possible without the assistance and support of CSBG.*



CPCA GETS A WEBSITE

After 50 years of dedicated service to individuals and families across seven counties, CPCA has come into the digital age. The agency has created and maintains a website in order to advertise the free services offered to those in economic need. Contact information as well as program descriptions are available on the site. You can find that and more at www.cpcanc.org.*



CSBG SUCCESS STORY PY 16 RANDOLPH

Tara S. was referred to CSBG for assistance with past due rent by another local helping agency in Randolph County. Tara was barely getting by with her income as a part time Personal Caretaker at a local group home, and she and her children were facing eviction at that time.

Tara had no idea day to day how she was going to feed and clothe her children. She felt hopeless and was close to giving up. Staff explained the range of services available through CSBG and assured Tara that help was available though it would take time and patience to turn things around. Tara accepted the offer of assistance and was enrolled after required eligibility documentation was secured.

The first step was to help the family become more stable by resolving the eviction issue, assisting with past due utility bills and supplying the family with nutritious food staples. Time was invested in building up Tara and providing her with encouragement and guidance about training and employment opportunities that would allow her to better provide for her family. This generous support and concern comforted Tara, and she began to discuss the other serious problems that she was facing.

Tara confided that she had recently lost custody of one of her children because of very serious family issues. This loss devastated Tara, and CSBG staff comforted her through this very difficult period. With counseling Tara adjusted to the sad circumstances and realized that the best-case scenario for now is the knowledge that her child is in a protected place and her other children are doing well in her home.

Tara then began to focus on herself and realized it was time she put her best foot forward and start seeking better employment. CSBG staff assisted Tara with a lengthy job search.



Eventually Tara secured a wonderful full time position as a Quality Support Specialist for individuals with special needs with Monarch that pays a great salary above the poverty income guidelines and that provides her with multiple benefits to include paid leave, 401K, medical coverage and dental insurance.

Unfortunately, Tara defaulted with her car payments and almost lost her car to repossession around Christmastime 2016. She had fallen behind before obtaining employment. Tara was reluctant to ask for assistance because she had made such great progress and did not want it to appear like she was poorly managing her finances. During one of the CSBG counseling sessions, staff noticed that Tara was troubled and questioned about this. Tara finally disclosed that she was in jeopardy of losing her car. Without transportation in a rural area, Tara knew that she would lose her job and be forced to start again at square one. Fortunately, CSBG stepped in to pay the past due payments for Tara and prevented her vehicle from being repossessed.

Tara is a perfect example of the difference that CSBG makes in the lives of the clients we serve. Succeeding economically not only requires opportunities and financial assistance, but also emotional and moral support. People that are struggling economically need to believe that they matter, that they deserve good lives and that with help they can achieve better for themselves and their families. Tara came to CSBG as a scared and lonely, single mom desperate for help not knowing what to do or who to turn to. And now she is self-supporting, informed, and feels confident in her ability to survive whatever life throws at her. Above all Tara knows she has a friend in CSBG should she ever again need our help. Happily, Tara will be graduated from CSBG in June 2017 having achieved and maintained above-poverty income and having achieved all major self-sufficiency goals.*

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