

## **Lynette at Eastern Gateway Community College Project HOPE**

Lynette McGhee is a determined, inspiring 43-year-old African American woman and mother of four children between the ages of 12 and 18. Lynette is a hard-working, dedicated student who, in the middle of the school year, found herself financially struggling after her mother had a severe stroke. Her mother needed long-term care and entered a nursing home. Lynette became financially responsible for her mother's care. She realized that things were about to take a turn for the worse, but she was determined to continue with her education.

Lynette became involved in Project Hope through an active advertising recruitment campaign. At that time, she was considering returning to school but did not think it was possible until she called and spoke with a friendly, encouraging recruiter. She enrolled in the Healthcare Information Medical Office Management program at the Mahoning County Career and Technical Center in Canfield, Ohio. She was immediately connected with a Student Coach who quickly became a mentor and friend.

When Lynette found herself in a financial and emotional crisis, her first instinct was to talk to her Student Coach. She struggled with making payments on her car, rent, and managing school and her family while trying to ensure that her mother had the medical care she desperately required. She depleted all of her resources and borrowed against her car for her mother's care. Lynette was unable to work and had cut her expenses to the bare bones, including terminating her phone service, but it was not enough. She was in danger of losing her home and car, which might require her to drop out of training and crush her dreams of becoming financially self-sufficient.

Lynette was not accustomed to asking for help, so instead she decided to write a letter. She wrote a powerful letter to her Student Coach only asking for the minimum amount to avoid eviction. Lynette's thoughts were filled with anxiety about how to keep a roof over her family's heads, continue with school, take care of her four children, and now manage the care of her mother.

Project Hope was able to support Lynette with a one-time payment for her rent totaling \$416.64. Although the amount seems small, Lynette knew in her heart she had nowhere else to turn for help. With the funding from HPOG and the support from Project Hope, Lynette avoided eviction and finished training.†

Lynette is currently working in the healthcare field in medical records and is continuing to take classes to become a nurse. Her relationship with her Student Coach paved the way for the necessary support needed to keep Lynette and her family in their home during a time of family crisis.

She sent a thank you card to her Student Coach with the following greeting: "Please share this thank you with everyone at Project Hope for keeping me and my family in our home. GOD BLESS YOU ALL."

Lynette continues her relationship with her Student Coach through social media and is happy and proud of her accomplishments and her future in healthcare.