

Sylvia at Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board CareerWorks Healthcare Training Institute

CareerWorks Healthcare Training Institute (HTI), located in the inner city of Milwaukee, has had several successes during its first year of operation. One such success story came through Aurora, one of its acute care partnership agencies. This story starts with Sylvia Bingenheimer, a 25-year-old single mother.

Sylvia has legal custody of not only her seven-year-old son but also an eight-year-old cousin. (Sylvia's father originally had custody of the cousin, but when he died, 21-year-old Sylvia took her young cousin in.)

Sylvia's ambition and interest in healthcare led her toward the goal of earning a Bachelor's of Science degree in nursing, so she started working on her dream at Alverno College in Milwaukee. While she went to school and maintained full-time employment, she had the support of her mother, who helped by watching the children. However, during the middle of a school semester, her mother became ill and could no longer care for them. Sylvia had no choice but to reluctantly drop out of school and could not hold onto her job.

Sylvia knew that she needed to regain employment, preferably in her chosen field of healthcare. She explored nursing assistant training options, but feared she could not afford the tuition. Sylvia next contacted UMOS, a local Wisconsin Works (W-2) agency that provides employment services. During this time, MAWIB was working with UMOS to recruit HPOG participants. When UMOS referred Sylvia to MAWIB, she received a call from MAWIB staff who told her about a unique training opportunity through MAWIB/HTI and Aurora Health Care. Aurora was offering training with a high potential outcome of employment after successful completion.



Since Sylvia had wanted to work in a hospital, she decided to learn more about this opportunity. She attended a MAWIB/HTI orientation on April 22, 2011, and was accepted into an Aurora CNA class that started on May 3. She successfully completed training and graduated on May 24, 2011. In June of 2011, Sylvia passed her state competency test and was placed on the State of Wisconsin's Nurse Aide Registry.

Upon graduation, Sylvia applied for a position as a CNA with Aurora and soon became employed at one of its hospitals, West Allis Memorial, where she is still employed. Although her mother continues to have health issues, Sylvia is working out childcare and hopes to return to Alverno in the near future to continue her nursing studies. Since employment, Sylvia has received additional training at Aurora and has advanced from a CNA to a Personal Care Assistant (PCA). Sylvia hopes that the HTI HPOG program can support her desire to progress in her healthcare career. She is currently

considering her next step to be enrolling in medical training for either diagnostic sonography or respiratory therapy, and she maintains her dream of eventually becoming an RN.