

A New Life After. . .

FreshStart

I came to The Salvation Army FreshStart Family Housing Program with my daughter in December of 2001 after leaving my abusive husband in California.

FreshStart gave us a home and a lot of support to get back on our feet. There were a lot of obstacles to overcome, and many times I felt I'd lost all hope. While waiting for my work authorization, I went to school in the mornings to get my GED since I couldn't obtain my school records from Germany. In the afternoons I volunteered in the FreshStart office.

In May of 2002 my new life began - everything fell into place. A week after getting my GED, my work authorization card came in the mail. Finally I could look for a job, and in July I started working for a local nursing home in the kitchen. Not my dream job but I was able to pay the bills. What a good feeling.

In 2003 my daughter and I got into an accident which changed my life significantly. We got hit by car in a crosswalk by a driver on a cell phone. We both were very lucky, although I suffered from a very bad knee injury that prevented me from going back to work at the nursing home.

A month of pain and physical therapy passed by without knowing if I could ever walk normal again, but I didn't give up. The constant support of the FreshStart staff gave me strength and hope. Eventually, I was able to go to a work experience program at Pikes Peak Workforce.

I completed the FreshStart program and when it came time for me to leave I was a little scared, being entirely on my own. But I was also very happy 'cause I could put everything I had learned in the program to work.

I came as a stranger and found a home.

I am now a Customer Care Representative in the technical department for Adelphia high speed Internet - in the job field I always wanted to be, working with computers and with people. I am very happy in my job and in my life.

What did it take to get there where I am today?

Never giving up hope - there is always a light at the end of the tunnel. Find out what you really want for yourself - set your goals and achieve them, step by step. It takes patience, dedication, perseverance, self discipline and courage.

Sounds like a lot of work? Yes it is but it is worth it.

My dream of a new life came true, because of the kind-hearted FreshStart staff who never gave up on me, and supported me in every way on my journey.



"Life Is Beautiful, Enjoy Every Moment!"

Michaela Stubbs

Michaela Stubbs, February, 2006



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