Success and the Environment as Motivators for TANF Recipients

When India Adams joined the PATHS program in 2012, she did not have a high school (H.S.) diploma, possess any computer skills and was unemployed. The first thing she recognized was that she lacked the skills and training necessary for today’s employment market. India enrolled in the PATHS Office Assistant (OA) training.

In this class, Ms. Adams improved her typing skills using a state-of-the-art computer software typing program and gained exposure to the computer applications such as Microsoft Excel, Word and PowerPoint. Ms. Adams stated that it was the confidence she gained from having successfully completed this training that motivated her to return to her high school and complete her diploma.

India then enrolled in the PATHS Home Health Aide (HHA) training. Upon completion, she gained employment with a Home Health Agency; Multi Therapeutic Services.

Ms. Adams had overcome all her earlier barriers to entry-level employment. The ambitious student wanted to continue her education. The campus of the University of the District of Columbia exposed Ms. Adams to the college population. She realized that there were “people who looked just like her” attending college. This motivated her to enroll in college.

Ms. Adams enrolled in college and is pursuing a degree in psychology. She stated she would like to become a social psychologist so that she may assist young adults to break out of those behaviors and mind-sets that prevent them from reaching their potential.

Ms. Adams is also employed, part-time, with the PATHS Program as the Front Desk Receptionist. When they ask for her and we tell them, “Ms India is in class today,” they ask with amazement, “She is in college?” And in this way, Ms. Adams is now a role model and a motivator for the customers we serve.