

Fall 2016

Chatham Youth Gains needed Education and Work Experience to Support her Family

Janet Ramirez, a Chatham County resident, joined the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) youth program back in 2014. As a single mother of two young boys, Janet was determined to gain the education and training needed to secure a good job, so she enrolled into the Central Carolina Community College (CCCC) Office Administration program.

While taking classes at CCCC, Janet had the opportunity to participate in a work-experience activity for the Chatham Habitat for Humanity as a front desk receptionist in Pittsboro. She did so well during her tenure as the receptionist, that the company considered hiring her in a permanent role, but did not have the funding to support the position. Habitat for Humanity gave Janet great recommendations to other potential employers, and in less than a month, Janet was employed as a full-time receptionist with the Chatham County Department of Parks and Recreation in Siler City.

Not only does Janet work full time, attend school, and raise kids, she is also an avid volunteer in her community. Janet continues to support the Chatham Habitat for Humanity as a volunteer, and has also worked with the Chatham Hispanic Liaison to help orchestrate Siler City's Hispanic Heritage Month events in 2016. On top of everything else, Janet remains an active WIOA participant, and attends Leadership Development and Financial Literacy activities in an effort to continue to improve herself.

Janet has never let her status as a Deferred Action Child or the fact that she is raising two young boys on her own, deter her from reaching her educational and career goals. She uses her barriers as fuel to continue striving towards her ultimate career goal of becoming a Human Resources Manager. Janet will be finished with her diploma program by the summer semester of 2017. The TSWDB looks forward to hearing more about her future accomplishments.