

CRYSTAL — PATH

When Crystal first connected with Michigan Works! West Central in 2025, she had a clear vision for her future. She wanted to build a stable career, achieve greater self-sufficiency and make a difference in the lives of others through healthcare. After exploring her options, she identified becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) as the first step toward achieving those goals.

Like many adults pursuing a career change, Crystal faced several challenges along the way. Limited transportation and difficulties securing reliable childcare created obstacles that could have slowed her progress. Instead of allowing those barriers to deter her, Crystal remained focused on her future. She actively participated in career exploration activities, strengthened her job-search skills and continued taking consistent steps toward entering the healthcare field.

A turning point in Crystal's journey came in September 2025 when she attended a healthcare career tour at Flat River Medical in Paris. During the visit, she met the CNA instructor, learned about the training program, toured the facility and participated in hands-on activities that introduced her to the daily responsibilities of a certified nursing assistant. The experience reinforced her interest in healthcare and gave her a clearer understanding of the career path she wanted to pursue.

Over the following months, Crystal continued building the skills needed for success. She earned a Career Readiness Certificate from Michigan Works! West Central, demonstrating her workplace preparedness and commitment to professional growth. She also developed a professional resume, practiced interviewing techniques and participated in activities designed to prepare her for



employment. In March 2026, she enrolled in a program that helped cover training and related expenses, allowing her to focus on reaching her goal.

In June 2026, Crystal officially began CNA training through Flat River Medical. Through a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on clinical experience, she developed the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to enter the healthcare profession. Her dedication and perseverance paid off as she successfully completed the program and prepared for her state certification exam.

Today, Crystal is one step closer to the future she envisioned when she first walked through the doors of Michigan

Works! West Central. Her success is about more than completing a training program, it reflects her determination to overcome challenges, remain committed to her goals and continue moving forward despite obstacles. As she prepares to launch her career as a CNA, Crystal is excited about the opportunities ahead and the chance to positively impact the lives of others.

Crystal's story is a powerful reminder meaningful change takes time, persistence and a willingness to embrace new opportunities. Through hard work, determination and the support of those around her, she has transformed her interest in healthcare into a clear career pathway and is well on her way to a brighter future.