

TATYANA — PATH

When Tatyana first connected with Michigan Works! West Central, she was facing significant challenges and uncertainty about her future. At 26 years old and raising four children, she was working hard to rebuild her life and create a better future for her family. Although she was committed to making positive changes, she often felt overwhelmed and doubted whether completing her high school diploma was even possible.

Despite her concerns, Tatyana made a commitment to herself and her children. She attended GED classes through Mason-Lake Adult Education three days each week and regularly participated in Friday workshops through Michigan Works! West Central. These workshops focused not only on education and employment but also on personal growth, goal setting and building confidence. Through activities such as creating a vision board, practicing positive affirmations, discussing future goals and learning strategies to overcome obstacles, Tatyana began to develop a new outlook on what was possible for her life.

She also participated in employability skills workshops covering resume development, interview preparation, workplace expectations, professional appearance and soft skills. While the journey was not always easy, Tatyana consistently showed a willingness to learn and grow. Early in the program, she often struggled with punctuality and confidence. Over time, however, she developed stronger habits, became more focused on her goals and replaced excuses with action.

One of the biggest challenges she faced came just before graduation



when local childcare options suddenly became unavailable. With no babysitter and coursework still remaining, it would have been easy to give up. Instead, Tatyana worked closely with program staff and her teachers to find a solution that allowed her to complete assignments from home while caring for her children. Her determination was remarkable. During the final week alone, she completed 2.5 credits and successfully finished the requirements needed to earn her high school diploma.

Today, Tatyana has achieved a milestone she once believed might be out of reach. She is now a high school

graduate and continues to work with Michigan Works! West Central as she pursues her next goal: earning her Commercial Driver's License (CDL). More importantly, she has gained confidence, hope and a renewed sense of possibility for the future.

Tatyana's story is a powerful example of perseverance, resilience and the impact of continued support. By staying committed to her goals and refusing to let obstacles define her future, she has created a strong foundation for herself and her children. Her journey shows that with determination, support and a willingness to keep moving forward, meaningful change is possible.