

HPOG Success Story- Misty

Misty Morgan: I am Misty Morgan. I am a PHOCAS recipient. I am a licensed practical nurse. And I am a mother of 5 children.

Misty: I came back to Louisiana, a divorced mom, five kids. Just didn't, didn't have a clue on what I needed to do. No income, no job, nothing, with five children looking back at me like, "what are we gonna do?"

Vicki Lofstrom: Misty was one of my welfare students. She wanted to come to school and become a nurse.

Misty: I had been to school before. I had been to college before but never as a single mom.

(Text on Screen: **Vicki Lofstrom**, Misty's PHOCAS Coordinator)

Vicki: I see this every day. I work with women all the time who are going through this. They do not want to be in the circumstances they are in. Those women deserve an opportunity to get ahead in life and to have a career.

Misty: It may seem like "oh but it's assistance, it's government assistance." You don't stay on it. It's to step; it's to step up.

Vicki: When you find a supportive service that helps pay for the gas to go to school, or helps pay for their childcare so that they can come to class, and not worry about who's gonna be keeping their child. Then you're talking about supportive services like HPOG's PHOCAS, that give them that money.

Text on screen: PHOCAS is one of 32 HPOG Programs across the country

Misty: Sometimes you just need that stepping ground to get up and say "okay, alright I got that stepping ground, now I can keep walking by myself."

LaNita Cleveland: And that's what this grant is about. It's about giving opportunity. I think that HPOG has strengthened the bonds in our community because we have really delivered.

(Text on Screen: **LaNita Cleveland**, PHOCAS Program Advisor)

Misty: PHOCAS was everything for me. It was completely what I needed.

Vicki: You're taking people off of a welfare program, off of a grant program, and they are becoming the best that they can be. They're becoming a productive person with an income able to support themselves and their children.

Misty: I mean I'm in a place now that all my kids have a room. It's, I can't explain it. It's an awesome feeling to go from a two bedroom apartment with five children

because all I had was three hundred and something dollars a month, to going to classes. I'm in clinicals; I'm in my all white. And I'm walking these halls, and I'm about to be a nurse. And that feeling of "oh my god, I'm getting ready to graduate," and then to get on that stage and get pinned, it's like "I did it. They helped me do this." That, I can't even explain that feeling.

Vicki: They don't just change their lives; they change the lives of everybody they touch from that point on.

Text on screen: Like PHOCAS, HPOG Programs give individuals the opportunity to obtain training and support services resulting in health care employment.

Text on screen: **17,793 individuals** have obtained health care employment through HPOG.

Text on screen: **HPOG** (logo) **Health Profession** Opportunity Grants – **OFFICE OF FAMILY ASSISTANCE**.

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