

## A Hope Success Story

# Achieving the Dream

Just nine months ago Makia and her three young children were homeless and hopeless; but now she has a job, a home and is providing for her family thanks to Hope Communities' volunteer and economic development programs.

***"Historically, Hope has hired 'community people', presenting them with unique employment opportunities,"*** said Letitia Horace, Hope's COO and Associate Director. ***"Makia's story captures the essence of that idea—the idea that this is who we began as and still continue to be nearly 30 years strong, providing hope and opportunity for our residents and community."***

Makia and her children became homeless on Christmas Day in 2008. Without a safe place to live, and the added complexities of being unemployed, she felt overwhelmed, hurt and scared.

Makia applied for and received help from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. As a TANF recipient, Makia was required to volunteer at a non-profit organization. She was eager to volunteer somewhere she would receive experience to help her secure a full time job.

Makia volunteered 40 hours a week at Hope Communities from April through October of 2009, becoming a skilled leasing assistant. When Hope had an opening for a Leasing Manager, Makia decided to submit her resume for consideration. She had learned how to create a resume through Hope Communities' job referral and computer literacy program. Makia did not receive any special treatment through the interview process—she was interviewed along side applicants with leasing backgrounds and experience. Thanks to Makia's drive and professionalism, she was offered the position.

Today, she is gainfully employed by Hope Communities where she tirelessly volunteered all those months. She explains how Hope's programs helped her secure her dream job and led her and her family to self sufficiency.

***"What I like most about my job are the people—nice down-to-earth people but really down to business,"*** Makia said. ***"The most valuable thing about Hope is that we will help anyone—not just residents."***

Makia explains that it is up to each of us to play the hand we are dealt, but life works a lot better when you have good people around you—Hope Communities people.



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