

Michelle on the rise

Motivated by love for her daughters

Michelle has come a long way to get a job and find stability in her life. Michelle moved herself and her two young children to the Twin Cities from Washington State last year, checking into a local shelter to escape a domestic abuse situation. In addition to leaving family and friends, she also had to leave behind her Certified Nursing Assistant certification from Washington. Michelle's **Goodwill/Easter Seals (GES)** employment/ support consultant and her GES community resource assistant helped her retrieve her certification, enabling her to pursue her career goal of moving up in the nursing field.

Michelle became a resident of a **Twin Cities Housing Development Corporation** site—a supportive housing environment that provided a safe and stable living situation for her and her children. In the meantime, she got a job as a housekeeper at a local hotel to help pay the bills. With the help of her GES consultant and assistant, she cleared another hurdle in her life. The heat in her apartment was shut off for 10 days before the community resource assistance grant and money from her first paycheck allowed her to pay off her full utility bill. The steady paycheck meant that she could take care of her obligations, as well as meet the needs of her two growing daughters.

After the man responsible for the domestic abuse turned up at her workplace, Michelle made the tough decision to leave the housekeeping position because it no longer felt safe. Accompanied by her GES consultant, she got an Order for Protection and decided take a step back and focus on her family. She took a basic computer class at Goodwill/Easter Seals to help her pursue a medical records clerk position in the future. Her consultant continued to help her develop a résumé, find clothing assistance, and offset transportation costs for her job search. Early this summer, Michelle secured work as a personal care attendant. She's excited to be working again, and plans to eventually move up into a nursing assistant position and even further.

"During her job search, Michelle demonstrated a very persistent style with possible employers. When she finds a place she wants to work, she absolutely makes it her goal to get that job," says her GES consultant. Michelle has withstood so much, yet has maintained her optimistic outlook and stubborn drive. She continues to be a role model for her girls, and her love for them has been the motivation for all her hard work.

[**Goodwill/Easter Seals of Minnesota**](#)

[**Twin Cities Housing Development Corporation**](#)

Twin Cities LISC's total investment to date in GES and TCHDC: \$642,576