

Charitable Fund Update

From Stark County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery
October 2016




Giving Hope & Supporting Dreams

Sha'Von Umbles of Massillon was awarded the Spring 2016 Workforce Development Scholarship.

SHA'VON UMBLES LIVES in her hometown of Massillon, Ohio with her five-year-old son. She is soft-spoken with a calm demeanor. Now 26, Sha'Von has lived on her own since the age of 16.

Sha'Von studies business at Malone University and social work at the University of Akron. Her goal is to combine both fields of study in order to open her own group home for troubled teens – troubled teens like she once was.

Sha'Von works at a StarkMHAR Care Network provider, Coleman Professional Services, offering support services at a housing facility for adults. Before Coleman, she worked at another StarkMHAR Care Network provider, CommQuest Services.

"I wish I had someone like me to help guide and increase my chances at succeeding in life."

What drives Sha'Von is a motivation to educate and empower youth who struggle with alcohol and drugs. "I myself struggle from bipolar disorder, PTSD and anxiety as well as a history of marijuana use." Sha'Von says, "I wish I had someone like me to help guide and increase my chances at succeeding in life." Every person's road to

recovery looks different. For Sha'Von, she says that becoming a mother and bonding with her

son helped to redirect her life. In addition, a middle school dance tutor became a key mentor in her life. Since then, Sha'Von has poured her lived experience into two novel manuscripts (one autobiographical and one for young adult readers).

Before receiving the scholarship,

Sha'Von believed she had much to offer Stark County but lacked access to essential resources to make a difference.

In a thank you for the scholarship, Sha'Von says, "I will make it my job to return the favor in later years to someone else in need." To anyone facing similar life circumstances, Sha'Von adds, "Addiction is real and it's sad to say but it controlled my life for six whole years before I could start my road to recovery. It was not an easy path, but I'm living proof that it can happen if you are willing to let go." ✨