

Studying for her Future, Macire Begins as New Chapter



Macire is beginning a new job as a Cardiac Technician at St. Peter's Hospital, in part, due to assistance from the WAGE Center and the City of Albany Poverty Reduction Initiative (CAPRI). Since her arrival from Guinea in 2003, Macire has worked hard to support herself and her family.

Early on, Macire had to drop out of school to care for younger siblings, sacrificing her education to work. After earning a living for a number of years, she decided it was time to focus on education and the career development that would come as a result. First, she obtained a GED. She then, trained to become a Home Health Aide, and enrolled at Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC) in the Respiratory Therapy program. She chose the program partly because she says, "I think it's a good field, because I was rushed to the hospital and couldn't breathe." Macire explains that she realized that the field was really necessary to patients when she experienced the fear and discomfort of having a respiratory problem.

While in school, Macire was working as a phlebotomist with a Red Cross mobile unit. However, the long and random hours and locations made it hard to attend classes. So, she eventually took a different job. However, she knew she needed to have not only training, but documented education in phlebotomy to be hired at a hospital. A friend recommended the WAGE Center for help with her resume. While working on the resume, it was determined that an application for a CAPRI scholarship to take a phlebotomy course might help her find a better hospital position.

As a result of the CAPRI scholarship, Macire's situation has, "changed a lot, because," she says, "I'm able to get something at the hospital." She will begin work at St. Peter's while finishing her program at HVCC in December. She will do clinical work at Albany Medical Center Hospital where she says, "I will get more experience."

The ability to use her skills as a trained and educated phlebotomist may have helped her get hired at St. Peter's. It will help Macire be of more service in her department and result in increased earning potential in the long term.

Macire is a perfect example of someone working through significant barriers to better herself, step by step. In five years, she hopes to be working as a successful respiratory therapist and possibly supervising others.