



Career Resources Success Story

*Keona Jackson,
STRIVE and Adult Education*



Keona Jackson knew she had to do something to jump start her earning potential.

She'd had a lot of jobs, many at temp agencies. But lately, wherever she'd apply, employers told her they wanted someone with a high school diploma or GED.

So when she saw information about STRIVE classes in a Housing Authority Newsletter, she was interested, and came to Career Resources in downtown Bridgeport to find out more.

Months later, she had not only graduated from STRIVE—she had also earned her GED.

"I really wanted to do this, because I knew I needed a diploma to get a good job," Ms. Jackson said. "And it's good for my daughters to see me studying. I want them to see how important school is."

STRIVE, a three-week attitudinal job readiness course, taught her a lot about herself; she says she has become a better listener and more able to accept criticism. She then enrolled in Adult Education classes just down the hall, where teacher Maria Lee developed an individual course plan for her and helped her study for the rigorous GED exam.

"Ms. Lee really helped me by breaking it down and helping me work on areas where I needed help." Ms. Jackson said. "She was very helpful and showed me how to focus."

Ms. Jackson now plans to get a job and seek training as a pharmacist.

Her new accomplishments will have benefits beyond even a better job and sense of satisfaction.

"I left school when I was 17. I did not live with my mother; I lived with relatives who did not see it as their job to encourage me," Ms. Jackson said. "So I'm glad my daughters will see from me that school is important."

"No one is going to take care of me but me," she added. "And now I am better able to do it."



"I recommend STRIVE to a lot of people. But I tell them you have to be serious and make a commitment."

*~Keona Jackson,
STRIVE graduate,
GED diploma holder*

Career Resources is a non-profit helping workers to succeed in life. Our programs include STRIVE, Fathers for Life, an Alternative Incarceration Center for Women, job placement for ex-offenders, and operation of the One Stop Career Center, offering job placement and training in 20 southwestern Connecticut towns. For information, please call 203-334-5627 or visit www.careerresources.org.