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program.

My name is Marsha Watson and I have been involved with the TANF/FedCap/Aspire program since June of 2023. When I first signed up I was very nervous as I have never requested help and I had little knowledge what to expect. Years ago my sister got it so I was kind of familiar, I knew about the expectations and if you didn't comply you were to be "sanctioned" that part scared me.

When I applied, I did it all over the phone and the woman who helped me was very, very nice and explained it all to me in a tone I would understand. When I had my first in person appointment I instantly felt welcomed, I felt heard and I felt comfortable and my daughter was also very happy and comfortable.

My career advisor was Haley Gotlieb in the Brewer office. Haley helped me in so many ways, and always made sure my needs were top priority. Now being a single mother in recovery is hard, it hasn't always been a easy road for me. I get judged more often than you'd think and Haley has never once made me feel that way. She has helped me with being a better mother, she made sure I knew about the resources and the funds available to help me with getting things I need for my schooling including getting me a laptop. Anything I needed help with she was right there to help me through it all, without the help I don't think I would be able to continue as I have with very minimal stress.

Being a single parent is hard enough as it is, being a single parent in recovery is even harder. Not everyone is as kind and welcoming as she was, the entire community of workers in the brewer office never once judged me and they helped me succeed and treated my daughter and I with love and kindness.

During my time working with Haley housing was a huge need for me, I applied everywhere throughout the state and finally I got a call for a 2bedroom apartment in Portland. It was mine if I wanted it, I quickly said yes! Though I was sad to be leaving the comfort of Haley as my career advisor she made it easy for me. Haley transferred me down to this area and it went very smoothly. I am very thankful for the opportunity to write this today and I also am very thankful to Haley, thank you for All you have done for my girl and I!