

CLIENT PROFILE - S. HINTON

When asked to tell a bit about herself, S. Hinton began by reciting a long list of academic achievements, before gushing about her children and sharing her excitement around owning a home soon. Her sense of pride and positive attitude is infectious. Ms. Hinton has always had big dreams and believed in herself but she is still often struck by how far she's come.

At the age of nineteen Ms. Hinton found herself homeless, fearing what the future would hold for herself and her one-year-old daughter. Luckily, the young family was connected to HOW and quickly received an apartment and additional support services provided by the organization.

“I was really having a hard time and going through a lot. I didn't have family and didn't know what was next, and then came HOW.”

Ms. Hinton has loved helping others since she was a little girl and knew she wanted to be a nurse from a young age. With the stability of a HOW apartment, she was able to refocus her attention on going back to school. She mapped out her educational journey and enrolled in Malcolm X City College where she secured her Associate's Degree, then graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with her Bachelor's of Nursing, and is currently working towards her Master's in Public Health (MPH). “Ms. Hinton always says, ‘Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm,’” recalls Vanessa Koonce, Ms. Hinton's Case Manager of two years, “and she embodies that positivity and has used it to find success.”

During the day Ms. Hinton is a student, diligently taking notes and listening to lectures, but at night she plays the very different role of a mother caring for her children. She knows graduating with her MPH will elevate her career, but also thinks of the degree as a reminder to her children that they can accomplish whatever they set their minds to. Ms. Hinton occasionally had difficulties securing basic necessities as a student with little income, but knew her Case Manager and the HOW team was always there to help. “Vanessa always makes a way,” says Ms. Hinton, “If I needed milk formula, diapers, or help with something in the apartment, Vanessa got it to me--she was there.”

“HOW is a great place and I've used it as a stepping stone to become a better version of myself. It's helped me prosper in the best way so one day I can donate to the same program that helped me.”

