

Gina C.



Gina is fun, kindhearted and full of energy that today is channeled toward pursuing her career goal to become a Registered Nurse. But, this hasn't always been the case. Gina's story began in June 2007 when she entered a treatment program for her alcohol addiction. At this point, she had been drinking for 20 years, since she was 14. During her stay in the treatment program, Gina said she felt clear-minded for the first time.

Gina comes from an average, middle-class family. Her step-mom had attended nursing school after retirement while in her 50's. She became the inspiration for Gina to pursue her dream to become a nurse. At 38 years old, Gina learned about SCAP's Health Care Professionals Opportunity Grant training initiative from a friend. She quickly enrolled and was one of eight students who participated in SCAP's first class of candidates who were trained to become Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA). Gina completed the program at the top of her class which she said was a surprised since in the past she never liked school. Gina said it was hard, but she loved it!

"Career readiness was such a good thing to go to first. SCAP helped me with basic things I thought I knew, but didn't. I learned a lot about how to stand out, the importance of self-confidence, conflict resolution and problem solving. I saw the same people every day and after awhile we became friends," said Gina. Consumed with compassion, Gina cares deeply for her patients. Her next goal is to attend nursing school. She said, "I want it to happen!" She knows how competitive nursing school is, but expects that with the extra benefit of going through SCAP's career readiness program, she is better prepared for the challenge.

12/27/12