

Ma’Kiah Beatty



Ma’Kiah Beatty is a cheerful and happy young woman. At just 22 years old, she personifies the wisdom, strength and courage of a much more mature person. Ma’Kiah joyfully talks about growing up the eldest of five sisters and the good and bad times they had.

Ma’Kiah was born and raised in Albany N.Y. Her parents separated when she was very young and she was raised primarily by her mother. A big part of growing up was splitting her time between her dad’s, grandparent’s and mom’s house. She recalls they didn’t have a lot of money and that she and her mom moved from apartment to apartment living in many different areas of Albany. They didn’t stay in one place long enough for Ma’Kiah to get to

know the neighborhood or make friends. “I got used to moving all the time,” said Ma’Kiah. “That was what we did.”

Determined to do well in school, Ma’Kiah worked hard and graduated from a private high school after which she attended Lemoyne College in Syracuse, N.Y. However, Ma’Kiah didn’t finish college; instead she decided to get married. Her husband was in the Army, and she moved with him to Texas.

Ma’Kiah had trouble adjusting to her new life, so she left her husband and came back to the Capital District area alone. Filled with self-doubt with no job prospects, Ma’Kiah looked to her mother for guidance. Since her mother was a recent graduate of SCAP’s employment services which resulted in her gaining a new career in the health care field, she guided Ma’Kiah to also come to SCAP for assistance.

With the help of SCAP’s employment services, Ma’Kiah has come to terms with her self-doubts. Today, as Ma’Kiah reflects on her past, she realizes she has lost a connection with some old friends and family, but now she is trying to rebound and be at peace with herself.

She said, “I have learned everyone falls, and that everything happens for a reason.” Her SCAP instructor and her classmates helped Ma’Kiah take an inventory of her strengths. “I gained so much experience from the class. I learned a lot about working with disabled children and I was able to talk with a human resources expert who has become a valuable resource for me.”

During the interview, as Ma’Kiah settled into her chair, she said, “What I have learned in life is that you have to put yourself first and whatever you start, you have to finish.” Ma’Kiah has a dream for her future to become an X-Ray technician and she feels the key to her success is education.

Here is a poem, titled Education, written by Ma’Kiah:

Education

The anxiety is building, the heart races-
Words are spilled, History forsakes us.

I'm a cocoon, Harvesting -
Collecting, just to produce.

Raising my hand, Nervous to speak-
But I know the answer, Confidence still to peak.

I'm a caterpillar, developing -
Optimistic, Eager to simmer.

Smiling is the makeup now -
Each shade more beautiful than the next
Stronger and teaching
Helping others to advance.

I'm a butterfly, Goal achiever -
Leader -
This is me.

- Ma’Kiah Beatty