

ROSS Program

June/July marked the beginning of a new ROSS class. This class has had an unusual start to it. For the June class we completed 16 Self Sufficiency Assessments. As is usually the case I start immediately talking to our perspective students about what kind of careers they would like and I encourage them to look at the available jobs we have posted in our job bank. This time something amazing happened. On our first day of class only 2 students showed up. Of course, I panicked. I thought we had somehow failed the residents and perspective student. Boy was I wrong.



As we continued to recruit and talk to our perspective students we realized something quite unusual happened. Of the 16 students that we had done Self Sufficiency Assessments on, 5 found jobs and 1 was accepted into school and is now attending Huntington Junior College. I think we should celebrate their hard work and dedication to self sufficiency: Mercede F. Calvin, Stella Canady, Jermaine Puryear, Markeia Johnson, and Chad D. Fordyce.

At this time, we now have 5 current ROSS Students. They are: James D. Clay, Chad D. Fordyce, Paul Stephens, Barry Hunter, Steven L. Sanders, and Doris Powell. They have already begun looking for jobs, even as they go through the Orientation Phase of the program. We took Paul Stephens and James Clay to the Ironton, Ohio Workforce office to start the application process for Special Metals. They both passed the first round of the process and are waiting for the next part of the process.



James Clay, just reported that he also just got hired at IHOP. He will begin working evenings on Monday, July 7. He plans on completing the program and will continue to look for even more lucrative positions.

Currently the ROSS students are completing our Woodshop orientation and are beginning to learn about computers and the internet.

Finally, I would like to mention ROSS Student Florida Powell. Florida came to the program last summer and distinguished herself as a great student, a great person and a hard worker. That work ethic and her calming personality came to mind when we were looking at fulfilling a requirement of the ROSS Program. When the grant was put together it included providing an opportunity for further training in the secretarial/administrative assistant field. The goal was to hire one Public Housing resident and to further train that person. When we had the opportunity to be able use a secretary, Florida's name came to the top of the list.



She has been in training and helping us out since the end of January. Let me say that Florida has become an indispensable member of the Resident Services Department. As an avid learner and professional, her skills increase on a daily basis. If you have the opportunity to talk with Florida you will understand just how wonderful it is to have the pleasure to train her.