



Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it -- Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)

immigrant



Johanne Kamba endured three years as a refugee after leaving Cameroon. After completing a training program offered by Brooks Community Adult Learning Council and Brooks Employment Services, she was hired as a Community Rehabilitation Worker.

Johanne Kamba came to Brooks in May, 2005 after enduring three years as a refugee in Cameroon. With both parents dead, Johanne was sponsored by a friend. After having been in Canada for only four days, she registered for the Integrated Training for Newcomers program, run jointly by Brooks Community Adult Learning Council and Brooks Employment Services. She had no understanding of English language at that point.

Within three months, Johanne's English proficiency improved. She was able to hold a conversation comfortably, and read simple instructions. Throughout the program, she presented as kind, compassionate, respectful, and determined young woman. Despite having lived through difficult and traumatic experiences, her attitude remained positive and optimistic.

By the program's completion in October 2005, Johanne was able to read more complicated material and was excelling with written English. In Africa, Johanne had worked as a volunteer with AIDS patients. She had expressed an interest in working in the human services field. She was placed in a work experience program at Brooks Services for Persons with Disabilities. Staff were so impressed by her progress and attitude, that they hired her as a full-time Community Rehabilitation/Educational Support Worker.

Johanne continues to be employed at the agency, and is currently on maternity leave, due to the birth to her first child. Staff eagerly await Johanne's return as they have found her a pleasure to work with. She was providing support to a high-needs individual who had, prior to Johanne, experienced a much turnover of support workers. Johanne has overcome barriers with this client's family and found success in helping this person.

Johanne is a remarkable example of strength, resilience and hope.

For information on the Integrated Training for Newcomers program, contact Brooks Employment Services at (403) 793-8032.