Nardos

DeKalb County, GA

**Her Story:**

My Name is Nardos, I live with my son Raphael and our dog Angel in Decatur, GA. For the past years, I have been juggling between raising my son, work and school. I have earned my Associate’s in Computer and Electronics Engineering and a Bachelor's Degree In Computer Information Management, and I have worked mostly in finance. Before I started school, I was working as an Accounts Payable and Receivable clerk, and I worked my way up to become Assistant Financial controller as I furthered my education. The path was more challenging than it sounds, and there were times that I had to take a break from working when my whole attention was needed at home. Particularly about a year ago, our family was highly impacted by covid (which is difficult to go into the details here). The shock was major — my son who had a 3.89 GPA a year ago, now finds it so hard to get out of bed and go to school, so he is going into 5th year of highschool and will not be graduating as expected this year. And, I was diagnosed with a thyroid cancer in one of my glands after a few months of the incident, hence my doctors suggested both my thyroid glands be removed which would have led me to be on medication for the rest of my life. I’m so grateful to have a doctor who agreed with me when I asked to get a few months to pray and meditate before they take both glands out. Subsequently, I started getting up in the middle of the night and meditating for an hour, and did another hour in the afternoon. I changed my lifestyle, and decided to temporarily work outside in nature. I found this beautiful golf course, 10 minutes walk from where we live, and I got hired as a valet for a very low payment compared to what I was making, but the beautiful landscape was the reward I needed! January 2022, a second biopsy was taken, and the cancer was gone! Consequently, only one thyroid gland was removed, and now I’m cancer free and I do not have to take medication for the rest of my life.

**For reference:**

**Company Name:** East Lake Golf Club- Valet

**Work Experience**: Assistant Financial Controller/ Financial Analyst for 5 years

**College Degree:** Bachelor's of Science in Computer Information Management

**Education**: Computer Science, Information Technology or Information Systems

**Annual Income**- $18,000

**Observation characteristics from WIT, Emory, Other Providers and Mentors (Outgoing, Quiet/Shy, Leader, Team Contributor, etc.)**

Nardos attends lab help sessions, helps classmates, asks questions and shares screen. Nardi, which she prefers to be called, is an excellent student who constantly asks questions and completes all assignments on time. She has attended lab help sessions as a helper to assist other students. She is very active and engaged in this class.

**Competencies: (Interpersonal Skills, Cooperation and Collaboration, Time Management & Administration, Leadership, Communication Skills, Strategic Thinker, etc.)**

Great Teamwork

Good Coordinator