Samiyah

Cobb County, GA

**Her Story:**

Where to begin? Trying to express myself and my journey on paper is a little challenging, but here we go. My name is Samiyah I am mother of 3 kids ages 17,15 and 14. Two girls and one son. I became a mother at an early age. Before I knew myself and what I wanted in life, I was responsible for others. Life just took off and all I could do was deal with the daily task of motherhood and one life obstacle after the next. I love being a mom and take immense pride with caring for my three beautiful children. But I must admit becoming a young, single mom definitely affected the trajectory of my life. I was not able to think of myself or see beyond the next week. I was only focused on making it day to day. Paying the rent on the first, buying birthday gifts, Christmas gifts, back to school shopping, groceries, etc. Going back to school or traveling was never an option, my kids became my priority. Of course in high school I never planned or thought my life would turn out like this. I had a normal life growing up. I was an A/B student in school. I had plans to attend college, live in New York become a business executive for a huge company. I dreamed of having my own office and secretary and planned to wear suits and high heels to work(lol).

But I meet their dad fell in love and became a mom before I became a whole ME. We started out together and I thought we had a solid future. I never thought I would become a woman that was abused mentally and physically. That was only something that happened in the movies and to other women. NOT ME!! Not Samiyah, I would never allow any man to place his hands on me. But yes, unfortunately that had become my reality. I was in an abusive relationship with the man I love. It happened slowly a hit here, a name call (bitch) there. I thought it was going to stop, after the apologies, but it became a normal routine. I would hide black eyes and cry in the bathroom before cooking breakfast for the kids. I tried my best to hide it from the kids, but they heard and saw the bruises. I eventually left their dad after he beat me unconscious one day. Before I passed out all I could hear was my daughter screaming stop. About a week later I left and moved in with my mom. I left everything but I was alive. I started all the way over with clothes and everything. It was hard, I was embarrassed, broke, scared both inside and outside. But the road to me healing started then.

I desire to participate in this program for so many reasons. To finally complete a goal for myself. To show my kids success can happen if you work hard. I want my kids to be proud of me, to look at me as an example. I often feel like a hypocrite telling them to be successful, but I do not feel that way at all. It is so much I want to show them in life. Given the opportunity to participate in this program will give me and my children options. Every time we do anything in life I always look at the price. To the point where when we shop my kids say “ I know mom get the cheapest one”. For once in life I do not want price to be an object. I want to have an income of that give my kids the opportunity to do more with their life. With a limited income I have not been able to do that. Participating in this program is raise my self-esteem. To have cyber security as my profession, I never could have imagined this would happen to me. To have career and not a job. I would be so proud to say I work in the cyber security field. I would be honored for my kids to witness the change in my life. This will allow me the opportunity to buy a home for us. I have always said one day we will have a house but have not been able to accomplish the goal as of yet.

 I know there are thousands of single mothers with the similar stories. But if I am selected, I will pay it forward. I will continue to water seeds, so the blessings can continue to flow. I would also be able to care for my parents as well. This opportunity will not just bless me but so many people around me. My career goals consist of growing in the technology field and gaining as much knowledge and experience as possible. I want to be an example to my kids of how important an education is and how information will provide options and choices for your life. I am willing to work hard and dedicate the time needed to be successful in the program.

Being awarded this opportunity would be a life saver. I am at a point in my life where I am struggling to take care of myself and my family. I do not know what I am going to do to change my situation. I have no degree and my job just allow me to live check to check. I am not able to save for my kids education or my retirement. With the current inflation I am always making choices between this bill, gas or food. With this skill set and increase in income I will finally have a weight lifted off my shoulders. I will be able to be on solid footing in life. Literally since I became a mom I have always been in survival mode and to be honest I am tiered. I need a change in my life.

All can say is pick me!!! My life has consisted of struggle since I was a young adult. Yes, some this came from choices I made. But I am asking for an opportunity to be given a chance to change the trajectory of my life and the life of my kids. If granted this experience next year, my family life will be changed forever.

**For reference:**

**Company Name:** Fulton County- Assistant

**Work Experience**: Executive Assistant, Administrator Coordinator II, Administrator Coordinator I

**College Degree:** N/A

**Education**: Emory University Continuing Education- IT Fundamentals Certification

Georgia Perimeter College- Social Work

**Annual Income**- $ 22,000.00

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

Samiyah asks questions when needed in lab. Samiyah completes assignments on time and demonstrates her willingness to participate by volunteering to share research weekly.

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

Great Coordinator

Great Participation