



PROFILES OF HOPE

Esther

Esther is a single mother with two wonderful children: a daughter and a son. Keeping custody of them was of the utmost importance. Unfortunately, the legal costs of doing so placed a huge financial burden on her. Around the same time, she had to leave her job due to health and safety concerns. Esther's son has a chronic health condition which requires her to buy medication and specific food items for his treatment. The legal fees and medical costs combined with the loss of income from her job made it very challenging for her to pay the bills, let alone buy food and other necessities for herself and her children. Esther felt like she was letting down her family and herself. Eventually she fell behind on paying the bills while the food was running out at home.

Esther had initially come to Caritas a decade ago for food when she had a one-time need. Because of her previous experience, she decided to reach out to Caritas again for help. She had also overheard that Caritas helps people get their Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) license and she planned to inquire about that. On her first visit, she received food and scheduled her first Case Management appointment. Due to the amount of stress she was experiencing, Esther felt overwhelmed when she arrived but her Case Manager, Janie, was able to calm her down and give her some much needed encouragement.

Caritas provided Esther with food, clothing and a heater, and paid her water bill. Caritas also connected her to Grassroots Community Development for help with housing. In addition, Caritas paid for Esther's books, tuition, drug screening, background checks, scrubs and the exam for her CNA and EKG classes at McLennan Community College. She also received a one-on-one budgeting session with her Case Manager to assist her in planning her finances.

Before coming to Caritas, Esther was worried about her family's future. Since coming to Caritas, Esther has attained her CNA license and is employed at St. Catherine's. She also took EKG classes and plans to enroll in a Certified Medication Aide course. Her new job has made it easier to provide for her family and she hopes the classes she is taking will open up better employment opportunities in the future. Esther's ultimate goal is to become a Registered Nurse, allowing her to find a higher paying job and becoming more self-sufficient to the point she can provide everything needed for herself and her children. Becoming an RN will also allow Esther to achieve her dream and passion of being in a position where she can use her skills and experiences to help others.

