



PROFILES OF HOPE

Kimberly

Kimberly was born and raised in Waco and graduated from Waco High School. She attended Southwest Texas State University before serving in the Navy as a Hospital Corpsman for 8 years. She married, had a son and after 15 years of marriage, she and her husband divorced. Over the years, she worked various jobs in Waco until a cancer diagnosis rendered her unable to work. Kimberly began receiving treatment for her cancer, but without a job and without insurance, she found herself struggling to pay bills and provide for herself. Thankfully, her cancer was removed through surgery and Kimberly recovered. However, she was in need of help and wanted to get back into the workforce so she came to Caritas.

Kimberly applied for the Veterans' Case Management program and visited with a Veterans' Outreach Case Manager. The case manager referred Kimberly to a program at a local hospital to cover the cost of medications that she continues to need. Case Management also assisted Kimberly in improving her resume and promoting her job skills to potential employers. In addition, Caritas provided Kimberly with food and toiletries and helped pay her rent and utilities. Kimberly attended free Empowerment classes and found them to be very beneficial to her. Caritas was even able to cover the cost of Kimberly's Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor Intern application fee. This will allow her to earn intern hours so she can become a fully licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor.

While taking her classes, Kimberly found work to help support herself. The job was initially only temporary, but funding was secured to keep her position. When she finishes her intern hours, Kimberly hopes to find even better employment with her Chemical Dependency Counselor license.

Kimberly has started giving back to Caritas by donating professional work clothes and shoes to the Case Management Closet to help other Case Management clients dress for success for interviews and other important functions. Kimberly encourages anyone who is considering whether or not they should go to Caritas to make an appointment so they can receive the help they need. Kimberly was surprised at the number of services available to clients and she's thankful to Caritas donors who help fund these services for her and other veterans.

