

Overcoming Struggles

Although I have not yet finished my achievements, I am a success! My name is Linda-Ann Allsopp-Stephenson. I am a single mother of two wonderful girls – Shelly and Megan. My girls are the focus of my life. My parents have always raised me to believe that no matter how difficult your life is someone else has problems worse than you do.

I have been through some rough times in my adult life, but the Lord always manages to bring me through. I quit school after my first semester of tenth grade and got my GED. I married shortly after and lived a life of abuse until my oldest daughter was born which gave me the courage to get out. I then moved back home with my parents and my father encouraged me to try to go back to school. We were in the process of getting me started when we, meaning my father, my mother, my daughter, and I, were in an automobile accident. The accident killed my father and injured my mother and me pretty badly. Through the grace of God, my daughter was the only one not injured. Once I recovered from my injuries, I again started to pursue going back to school.

In 1991, I attended Arkansas Tech University – Ozark Campus then known as Vo-Tech/Arkansas Valley Technical Institute and with the help of the Logan County Single Parent Scholarship obtained my technical certificate in business. After that, I worked for a company called ARVAC part-time as an in-take clerk. Then I moved on to a law firm where I worked as a secretary/receptionist. I have also worked for the Census Bureau as an enumerator, for Kid Quest as a developmental therapist working with developmentally delayed and handicapped kids, and as a marketing representative for West Corporation.

My oldest daughter started having some medical problems, which caused me to have to resign my position at West. Once those issues were no longer a problem for me, I started to seek

employment again. I quickly began to find that without a degree, I was not going to have any luck unless I wanted to flip burgers or pluck chickens. Not that there is anything wrong with either of those jobs; I have never flipped burgers, but have plucked chickens. I knew then and now that was not what I wanted out of life for my children or myself. Everywhere I went they were looking for someone with a degree, so there I was, back in school, attending Arkansas Tech University – Ozark Campus working on my Associate of Applied Science Degree in Business Technology and Banking. I started working full-time for Arkansas Tech – Ozark Campus March 2007, and received my Associates of Applied Science Degree in May 2007. I am going forward with life and teaching my children that nothing is impossible as long as you do not give up. As I stated in the beginning of this story, I have not yet finished my achievements. My next goal will be obtaining my Bachelors Degree.

Even as a single parent I have always managed to overcome struggles placed before me, but only with the Lord's help. Without the scholarships awarded to me through the Logan County Single Parent Scholarship Fund and the encouragement from the people on that committee, I would not have been able to write this story. I am very excited about the new journey that life is taking me on, and I will come out on the other end a better person. I owe so much of my "SUCCESSSES" to the Logan County Single Parent Scholarship Committee and the funds they raise and provide to people like myself. So, thank you very much to everyone who has a hand in this funding, it brings great meaning and hope to people like myself.

I AM A SUCCESS!