

Tina Lewis, Church Point Housing Authority Resident

For Immediate Release

Luck is often defined as when opportunity meets preparation. Opportunity and preparation came together recently for the Church Point Housing Authority resident Tina Lewis. As a participant in the CPHA Opportunity Now Program, Tina successfully completed the Job Readiness and Life Skills classes. She says those classes immediately provided results. "When I was taking the life skills classes, I was under a lot of stress. I worked in a negative environment with negative people. Even worse, I saw myself taking out my frustration on my children. But after our second class, I was able to start using the conflict resolution techniques we were taught, and that made me calmer at the job and at home."

The Life Skills Classes were taught by Opportunity Now partner Nina Dupont. Nina says the students in the first group received valuable lessons ranging from job preparation to communications. "The goal of Opportunity Now is take residents from where they are to where they want to be. The classes provide a great spring board to build their confidence and to help them achieve their goals."

And the ultimate goal for Tina Lewis was to find better employment to help her take care of her three children - 12 year old Da'naizha, 8 year old Natasia, and 3 year old Stephen. Tina took the lessons learned in the Life Skills classes and put them to good use in obtaining a new job at Opelousas General Hospital. "After completing the Life Skills classes, I knew I could achieve anything. This is the first job that I ever applied for that was not based in a kitchen. I used the interviewing techniques that I was taught, and I got a call the day after my interview with a job offer. I just completed my 90-day evaluation, and I received a perfect score along with a raise and a promotion."

Tina says that her new employment success is just the beginning. "I live in Section 8 Housing now, but I plan to eventually own my own home." She also has advice for other CPHA residents and Opportunity Now. "I would tell anyone who is eligible to participate in Opportunity Now to do so, especially the young mothers. Life does not allow us to change our mistakes, but we can control our future. This program and the people behind it are God sent."

For more information please visit www.cphousing.org

*For additional information on this press release, please contact Joe Lewis,
jlewis@xpsynergy.com or call (504) 875-0733.*