



## Rosewood InFocus Program

LN came into the office after hearing about the program from her friend. Impressed with the changes she saw in her friend LN wanted to become involved in the program. She enrolled in the program, met with the Navigator and stated *"the things I'm doing now are things I never thought I would. I want a real life, because this....this cannot be the rest of my life."* Unstable living and familial strife only exacerbate the trials and tribulations she experiences on a daily basis. As both an ex-offender and a victim of crime and violence her biggest challenge was escaping her lifestyle. Change is not easy and her process was compounded by the decisions she made earlier in life. From the very start LN demonstrated she was serious about her progress and overall future. She showed follow through on commitments and getting things done. She regularly attended workshops and participated in the sessions. A very bright and intelligent young lady it was easy to see that all she needed was opportunity and guidance. In an effort to expedite her lifestyle change the InFocus Navigator worked diligently with colleagues and other community partners to find a work experience site for LN. Effective Monday, June 9, 2014 LN will begin a paid work experience site where she will serve as a receptionist. This experience and training gives LN the work experience and work references she needs to add to her resume. She has made a complete paradigm shift and her self-esteem and aspirations for the future have changed. She is planning to start PCC in the fall. The InFocus program for LN is a starting-point, a spring board for her future success.

## Another Success Story....

DR was referred to the InFocus Program through SE Works. DR had spent the last few years incarcerated in the Federal Prison located in Sheridan. DR had only been released for a short period of time before making his way to the InFocus Program in Rosewood. DR came into the program with a commitment to stop engaging in criminal activities. He was clear that he wanted to change and told the Navigator "I refuse to go back to that place or anyplace like it ever again".

Guarded and lacking trust, it took a few 1-1 meetings with the InFocus Navigator before the real work could begin. DR opened up and dialogued about his goals –this was the first time SE Works staff saw "the light in his eyes". He had big goals and dreams but lacked the skills and knowledge to get there. DR and the Navigator began working on finding employment which happened quickly. Within one (1) month DR had been hired as a Sanitation worker at a large facility in Vancouver, WA while simultaneously working on more long term career track goals. Currently, the InFocus Navigator is collaborating with other staff and DR and is working to connect DR to a HVAC apprenticeship and they are looking into career pathway options via PCC. Like so many young adults DR wants to succeed and given the opportunity he will.

## InFocus Program

The InFocus Program is a young adult workforce development project located in Rosewood that is focused on serving multi-barriered low-income 18-24 year olds who need individualized employment services and employment placement, referral and navigation to Alternative Schools, High Schools, training programs and/or Portland Community College Career Pathways in order to build pathways out of poverty.

This program provides young adults with the supports needed to stop generational poverty by providing pathways to education, training and employment.