

## **Tracy Darden**

Social Worker

Working on Master's degree in Professional Counseling

KentuckianaWorks College Access Center

I've been using KCAC services since 2008. When I was getting ready to enroll in Jefferson Community and Technical College, someone told me about KCAC. I went there to find out about their services. They helped me fill out my FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) because I didn't really know how.

I had started college back in Virginia in the human services field. Being a single mother with children held me back. I didn't finish my Associate degree there, but enrolled at JCTC to finish the degree.

Then I went to Lindsey Wilson College, which is on JCTC campus, on the weekends. They offer classes toward a Bachelor's degree in Professional Counseling and Human Service. I earned my Bachelor's degree.

I'm working on my Master's in Professional Counseling with a minor in Social Work. Hopefully, one day I will open up my own facility. I would like to have a group home for troubled teenage girls coming out of the foster care system. I have some people working with me on a grant right now.

I have a new job here at the Metro Health Department, and I love it so much. I work with clients who have been discharged from a local hospital. Some of them have kidney disease, liver disease, dialysis, asthma, open-wound surgeries and other conditions requiring continued attention once they return home.

I visit them at their homes and provide as many resources as I can. I make doctor's appointments for them, if they have no one to make them. I help them get low-cost medications if they are uninsured or underinsured. I work with them to help them break down barriers to their independence. I love it.

KCAC provided me with scholarship information. I'm still filling out some applications for graduate school scholarships. They gave me a list of scholarships and said I could come back anytime and they would help me look for more scholarships. They're still helping me with my FAFSA.

I don't know what I would be doing if I hadn't heard about KCAC. I probably would have had to pay somebody to help me. But, I thank them for their service. They have helped so many people, and now my 26-year-old daughter is going there for assistance. I've sent many people to KCAC and always tell them to ask for my counselor.

I would tell anybody who doesn't know how to fill out the FAFSA to take advantage of the services KCAC has to offer. The services are free, they are great and the people over there are wonderful.