

DANA: FUTURE CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT

“I’m not there yet, but I’m getting closer every day,” says Dana, who enrolled her son, Wydonis, in the Head Start program. “It really does give them [the children] a head start, and the cost is based on ability to pay.” Affordable programs make all the difference for working parents whose incomes are already stretched to the breaking point. Having affordable childcare enables parents to pursue educational goals which can lead to better jobs and financial security for their families. Added to the childcare services are other programs offered by GCCAC, such as energy assistance and subsidized rental housing.

At first, Dana attended Garrett College as a full time registered nursing student but found the requirements of the program coupled with the demands of motherhood too much. Community Action, though, was there to help advise and guide her to other resources that made success a possibility.

Dana found work in a nursing home and then transitioned to in-home care. Through job and career counseling at GCCAC, she enrolled in adult education at Garrett College and has been pursuing her Certified Nursing Assistant certification on a part-time basis. Finding a certification course that fit both her interests and the demands of her life enabled her to successfully complete the program.

Headstart gave my son and my education a great head start!

Thanks to the professional and caring teachers and staff at Head Start, Wydonis is now ready for kindergarten and Dana is ready to move her career forward.

