

Angela's and Rachel's Story – Mother and Daughter

By Kathi O'Connor

Women come to our doors at Caroline Center from many places and through many avenues; friends, churches, social service agencies, and yes, sometimes because of positive experiences of family members. We have welcomed several sisters, cousins, in-laws and also mothers and daughters. Angela Scott and Rachel Fashae, mother and daughter, have both graduated from Caroline Center.

Angela, a mother and grandmother, had worked for 24 years for a large industrial company and her last position was as a forklift operator. She believed she would eventually retire from her job there, but suddenly the company announced they were closing. Angela dismally found herself unemployed – a first for her. Around this time, Angela's mother-in-law became a patient at the Good Samaritan Nursing Center and while visiting her, Angela was inspired and believed the nursing field could be very rewarding. One day her daughter Rachel told her about Caroline Center as one of her friends was a graduate.

Angela, who enrolled at Caroline Center in 2008, truly believes things happen for a reason and God has a plan for each of us. She admits she was lost and terrified when she came to Caroline Center but the staff was there to help her meet each challenge, including filing for unemployment. Angela was concerned about the coursework because she said, "I felt rusty, it had been a long time since I was a student but the instructors put me at ease, encouraged me and told me I would do fine."

Angela was in the first group of Geriatric Nursing Assistants to complete a clinical internship at Good Samaritan Nursing Center which has enthusiastically become a new business partner with Caroline Center. Following her graduation, Angela was hired at Good Samaritan as a Geriatric Nursing Assistant. Angela feels she was very prepared by Caroline Center in her nursing skills, financial literacy classes, and application and interview techniques – things she had not had the benefit of prior to enrolling at Caroline Center. She says, "I enjoy helping people and making their lonely and sometimes dark days a little brighter. God meant for me to do something meaningful."

Rachel was going through some life changes as well. After completing high school, she enrolled at Sojourner Douglas, obtained an Early Childcare Certificate, and began working at a childcare center. She remained in this field for 11 years until her second pregnancy when she had to quit for medical reasons. After Rachel's second child was born happy and healthy, she began to question her career path. She worried that if she cared for other children all day how would she feel when she came home to her own who needed her "mommy attention." Rachel's mother told her, "Caroline Center would be the perfect answer for you," and she enrolled in 2009 as a Pharmacy Technician student.

Rachel, nervous about her career change and being in school again, found the work challenging but also found help when she needed it. She hadn't had a real counseling opportunity before and said, "The integration groups and individual counseling were so important to me and helped lower my fear of all these changes in my life. Also, I realized how friends can help friends with class work and even pitch in and give a girl a ride home when she needs it." As Rachel graduated she said, "I feel excited, confident and ready for a new career which will help me as a person and improve my contributions to my family too. I want to teach my children to be all that they dream to be, it is important for them to have high hopes."

Rachel is still looking for a job in her new career field.