
MINNESOTA ARRA SUMMER YOUTH SUCCESS STORY

Annamaria

Age 20

Current Job: Fairmont Medical Center, Housekeeping Department



This is a success story about Annamaria, a 20-year-old mother in the Martin County MVAC Summer Youth Employment Program. Annamaria is someone who has struggled throughout her life with dyslexia and other learning disabilities. Her limited skills have previously made it very difficult to find employment—a job desperately needed to provide financially for her husband and 20-month-old son. The current state of the economy has made it extremely hard for anyone to find a job, including Annamaria. She can attest to the struggles of trying to pay her family’s bills and make ends meet. However, with the assistance of this program, Annamaria has been able to experience her “dream job,” (as she often refers to it) and was hired through this program at Fairmont Medical Center within the housekeeping department. Annamaria is someone who has truly embraced the opportunities this program has been able to offer and provide. She has taken full responsibility for every aspect of her job and her life. Annamaria often walks to work since she doesn’t have her driver’s license. This may seem like an insignificant feat, but for Annamaria, a woman with limited physical stamina, this can be extremely time-consuming and tiring. Yet, she always ensures she’s at work on time and prepared for the day with a cheerful smile.

At work, Annamaria’s enthusiasm and positive attitude has made her a “breath of fresh air,” as her work supervisor often describes her. Her co-workers enjoy her presence and they love Annamaria’s up-beat personality. Her light-hearted sense of humor is refreshing to everyone that surrounds her. Along with her fun personality, Annamaria has a kind and appreciative heart. She never ceases to say “thank you” and has continuously shown her gratefulness for everything and anything that has been done for her through the Employment Program. Annamaria’s supervisors can’t say enough about how much they enjoy and value her contributions.

The MVAC program has truly provided much more than simply an employment opportunity for Annamaria. Her job has become a community where she feels included, needed by others, and appreciated for just being herself. Annamaria is hoping that she will be offered a job at FMC when the program is completed.