



MISSION MOMENTS

...made possible by YOU!

Against the Odds...

Atishia has traveled a long road to get where she is today. As a person with an intellectual disability who faced many external challenges and barriers to success, she was at risk for becoming another statistic. But, with determination and perseverance, Atishia has demonstrated her ability to transform her dreams into reality.

The cards were stacked against Atishia from the beginning. She grew up in an abusive home and was moved into the foster care system when she was 9 years old.

Unfortunately, abuse continued to be part of Atishia's life once she was placed in a foster home. Her situation grew worse and, eventually, she was placed in the juvenile detention system, where she stayed until she was 18.



Atishia's next home was a State-run group home. While her basic needs were being met, Atishia sought more independence. So, she secured a waiver, which allowed her to have supports in a community-based setting. Atishia continued to look for ways to gain more control over her life, which was her ultimate dream.

The pivotal point of Atishia's story came when she chose Tangram for her residential support services. At Tangram, she found a supportive environment and a willingness to help her achieve her dream.

Initially, she was placed in a four-person setting with 24/7 supervision. She occasionally clashed with roommates and staff because she still felt others were directing her life.

One day, she told her program manager at Tangram that she needed to be independent and live on her own. Atishia stood firm, saying that she was determined to make this dream a reality, and if her support team wasn't willing to help, they needed to get out of her way.

With Tangram's support and encouragement, Atishia worked with staff on how to manage her finances, successfully take her medication on her own, and understand safety issues. After laying the foundation for independent living, she was able to move into her own apartment. Atishia now works full time at Goodwill, does her own grocery shopping, manages her finances, and regularly takes the city bus or rides her bicycle when she needs to travel.

Atishia has lived on her own for two years now, and went from receiving 24/7 support to a maximum of 30 hours of community support per week. She has amended her original dream of living independently to ultimately getting out of services completely. With her unmatched determination and her proven record of success, we know that Atishia will reach her goal.

This mission moment would not have been possible without Tangram's dedicated staff and our generous community of supporters. Thank you for making these stories possible!