

Hello- My name is Eunice Garley. Since the age of 12, I knew that I was alone in this huge world, and that I would have to fight my own battle. My father whom I adore dearly was on the other side of this country (Liberia, West Africa). I was okay with that because I received aid from others. I lived in foster care up until my last year of high school. My achievements and involvement with school activities were remarkable.

During my senior year of high school (2011-12) I realized I had been ignoring a lot of drama and chaos in my foster home and if I stayed in that home any longer my life would be in danger. I thought to myself, I would rather be homeless with my child than live in that home any longer. I packed my bag for a temporary stay at my son's father's family's house. The next day while in school I was introduced to the SPPT program, which was new at James Hillhouse High School. When I entered the room I saw a lot of enthusiastic faces that were willing to work with me. The most significant face and wonderful helping hand that was in my view was Mrs. Millicent Bowens, my SPPT case worker. When I told her what happened she was ready to introduce me to the services that were available. I was naïve to the benefits that America has to offer. Mrs. Millicent Bowens along with the rest of the SPPT program staff was by my side until I received the aid to fulfill my specific needs.

I am an introverted person, so I would rather be by myself and struggle on my own. If I am not asked how I am doing or how I am feeling no one would know. I acknowledge Mrs. Bowens for her concern over me and she did not stop until I received DNA testing/child support, food stamps and medical assistance for the State of Connecticut to support myself and my son. She was helpful in taking me to my appointments and making sure that I was doing okay.

Overall, the SPPT program was a great opportunity for me, which arrived at the right time in my life. I will honestly say that it is with the help of the SPPT Program that I was able to attend Wilson College in Pennsylvania.