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Dramane Boko, second from right, and his family, Aya, Affoue, wife Sita, Emmanuel and Adjoua.

Boko finds *path forward*

The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program provided a chance at a new course for Dramane Boko.

He and his wife and their four children emigrated from the Ivory Coast in West Africa in 2014 as refugees.

While in the FSS program, Boko's goal was to obtain his GED, college degree and a full-time job. He recently graduated from Southeast Community College with an associate degree in human services and works as a behavioral technician at CenterPointe, a mental health and substance use disorder treatment facility. Boko's wife, Sita, also works at CenterPointe as a cook.

Additionally, Boko, who received his U.S. citizenship in 2019, works as a substitute bus driver for Lincoln Public Schools and continues his education for his bachelor's degree

at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

"The Family Self-Sufficiency program helped me a lot in terms of emotional support," he said. "I felt like someone cared for me and helped me with goal planning and financial support."

The program provided Boko financial assistance when he had car troubles and with tuition costs. Upon graduating from the program, he received an escrow account, which he used to pay down some debt.

The most valuable lesson Boko learned through the program is that when people are ready to achieve their goals, they should have someone to help them along the way.

"You can achieve your goals if you are willing and able to listen to the people who care for you," he said.