

Turner overcomes challenges

Kiana Turner has faced her fair share of challenges, having moved from New Orleans to Lincoln after losing her home to Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

“It was difficult to pick up and move,” she said.

The New Orleans native relocated to Nebraska with her parents as they had a family member who lived in the state. Over time, Turner has adjusted, although the weather and food isn’t quite the same.

Through Lincoln Housing Authority, she utilized the Family Self-Sufficiency program. Turner’s goal was to complete her college education. In June 2019, she did just that, graduating from Southeast Community College with a human services degree. Turner now works as a caregiver with Visiting Angels and hopes to someday work with people with disabilities.

The most valuable thing she learned while using the FSS program was overcoming her fears.

“I had a fear of going back to school,” Turner said. “But I started in January 2016 and went straight through until June 2019. I never stopped, and I succeeded.”

Although she hadn’t been in school for 12 years, the encouragement she received from the program and FSS caseworker empowered her to move forward.

“When I came after Hurricane Katrina, it was a horrific ordeal,” Turner said. “I just didn’t think about going back to school, so this program helped me a lot.”

She said that she did it for herself and her 5-year-old son,



Kiana Turner overcame obstacles and fear through the Family Self-Sufficiency program.

Noah, and would encourage anyone who has the opportunity to utilize the program.

“I found the program was excellent and would recommend it to anyone on housing who wants to better themselves,” she said.

Free services for Youth at The HUB

Clinic Day at The HUB, 1037 S. 12th St., offers free services for youth ages 14-24 from 1-3 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Youth can receive support and free resources, including:

- HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STI) testing.
- Mental health brief assessment.
- Legal Aid of Nebraska can assist young adults to figure out what might be on their juvenile record and seal it properly. If not sealed, a juvenile record can hurt an individual’s chances of getting and finding a place to live, or being accepted into school. Not all

juvenile records are automatically sealed.

- Project Everlast provides services to young people transitioning out of foster care into adulthood, including helping them with public speaking skills, finding employment and other support services. Project Everlast offers a youth council with peer-to-peer support and welcomes young adults who have experience in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems, experienced homelessness, are pregnant or parenting and have felt disconnected from community.



- The HUB provides support for young people to age 24 as they become productive, independent, active members of the community. Help includes GED classes Monday-Friday from 9-11 a.m., and 1-3 p.m.; and teaching job-readiness skills, access to resources to assist in obtaining employment and assistance connecting them to volunteer opportunities.