

# A UNITED SUCCESS

**“ONCE I TOOK THAT FIRST STEP TO GET MY GED,  
EVERYTHING ELSE FELL INTO PLACE.” - SERESSA CARTER**

Seressa Carter made education a top priority early in life.

That changed when she had to drop out of high school to care for her son. Over 15 years later, while struggling to provide the basics for her son and younger daughter, Seressa lost her job for not having her high school diploma.

“It was a pivotal moment and thanks to United Way’s Family Success Center, I was able to make education a top priority again,” says Seressa.

With the help of 30 partners, The Family Success Center provides GED education, health care resources and financial literacy classes through a collaborative approach that empowers families to lift themselves out of poverty and unemployment into self-sufficiency. The program also provides 5-star quality childcare. “I had to have childcare for my daughter. There would have been no other way for me to get my GED.”

Seressa passed the four part GED exam within two and a half months and became the Family Success Center’s first GED graduate. She quickly landed a job at Guilford Child Development Center as a Procurement Administration Assistant. As if that weren’t enough cause for celebration, she also got married and is now a proud homeowner.

When it comes to education and being a role model for her family, Seressa tells her children, “you can, you will, and you must. While you have the help and the backup, utilize it, and don’t give up.” After earning her GED, she enrolled at GTCC and will earn an Associates degree in May, 2018.

“Once I took that first step to get my GED, everything else fell into place.”



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