



20 years

Living the principles



Habilitation Specialist

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*I have been working with one individual for the past 16 years. She's become family. I've seen so much growth in her that if I no longer worked with her, I'd still work with her. You know what I mean? She was in her mid-20s when I met her, a young gal that fell through the cracks in the system. She was street smart and hard, but she couldn't read or write. She didn't know how to pay bills. She didn't know how to cook. After her mother passed away she had no strong family support system. Today, she is married and lives with her husband in an apartment. I'm proud to say Tomika has come a long way.*

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BARB FEASER

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*in her own words*

## “ words of wisdom:

*My advice to someone starting out in this field is to have patience and stick with the individual. **If you give yourself and the other person the chance, you will move mountains together.***

*I know in my case, Tomika told me the first time I met her ‘I don’t need your help and I don’t want you to come back again.’ So I said ok and I left. The next time I saw her I took her a small gift and invited her to lunch. Afterward she said ‘Well, I guess you can come back one more time.’ That was 16 years ago, and now, honestly, we’re family.*

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*“My best moment of the past 20 years was Tomika’s first day in her own apartment. She was simply beaming. Tomika is a tough cookie. Heck, she fires me at least three times a week. But to have that soft moment with her that day was just **AWESOME.**”*



## about Barb...

*“Barb has a heart of gold. She cares so deeply for the individual she works with. Barb always sees and points out Tomika’s strengths and is willing to do whatever she can to help her succeed. **Barb does not see this as just a job, but as an opportunity and a privilege to get to be a part of this person’s life and journey.***

*They are practically family since they have been together for over 16 years! Barb has been a constant support in Tomika’s life. To have a staff and individual working together for that long is a rarity; it is such a beautiful thing to witness.”*

*~ Hannah Hilton  
Program Manager,  
Home and Community Services*