

From Homeless to a College Graduate: Tracy L. Hollis

In 2004, Tracy L. Hollis showed up at Shelter of Flint with two bags of clothes, \$55 a week in child support, and a drug and alcohol addiction. A caseworker put her into the transitional housing program and helped her get a job. “I didn’t feel attacked at Shelter,” says Tracy. “No one asked me why I didn’t have any money. They just helped me.”

With her life more on track than it had ever been, Tracy developed enough self-confidence to enroll in school. She started at Mott Community College in June 2005, and liked learning so much that she continued on to University of Michigan-Flint. Tracy had contracted HIV from her previous drug usage, and now clean, began speaking at addiction meetings and support groups, using her own personal story to motivate others.

Today, Tracy holds a dual Bachelor’s degree in Social Science/Social Work & Liberal Arts, graduated on the Dean’s list and has a job lined up in August. What’s next on her list? Graduate school at Michigan State University, writing a book and continuing her AIDS awareness. “I have to take what’s happened to me,” says Tracy, “and turn it into a positive for someone else.”



*Tracy Hollis after her 2007 graduation
from University of Michigan-Flint.*

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