

Sharon Ward named April CHFS Employee of the Month – Field Staff

Sharon Ward, a Case Manager I in the Owsley County Family Support Office, was selected as April Employee of the Month for the Field Offices. Sharon's nominator noted that she has been with the cabinet for 15 years and her story is a wonderful success story of our programs. She started out as a volunteer working in the Owsley County office as she was in the Kentucky Works Program. Below, she tells her own story of going from client to case manager.



Congratulations, Sharon!

"I signed up for the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program - KTAP - because I had four sons to raise on my own and I had no money. My husband left and my kids and I had nothing. My case manager asked me if I would like to be placed in the DCBS office for my Kentucky Works Program hours. I was beyond excited, I dreamed of office work and that's what I always wanted to do. I loved it! I started to grow as a person, I was taking care of my kids without child support and went to college also. I earned my associate's degree in applied sciences. I volunteered in the local office for a year. Then the secretary's position came open. My case manager encouraged me to apply. I did and I got my dream job. I loved it.

An opening for Family Support Specialist I came up, I was again encouraged to apply, and I got it. I continued to grow and loved it. I continued to move up to a FSSII. An opening came up for FSSIII (principal). I applied and got it. I also worked long-term care cases.

Then a case manager position came open and I applied on my own and I got it. I have always been shy and have low self-esteem. My case manager had faith in me when I didn't have it within myself. She taught me many things, and I strive daily toward my clients the way she was with me. My mission/goal in life is to make my clients feel like they can do anything, because they can. Because I was once on the other side of the desk. The most rewarding part of my job is helping clients that are just like me, and watching them grow."