

## **Julie Beck**

*LPN, Red Rose Pediatric*



I am a 32-year-old mother of 2 beautiful girls. Prior to New Choices, I enjoyed being a stay at home mom to my 2 year old daughter. I had previous work experience in the nursing and Financial Fields, as well as having held positions in retail and the restaurant industry. My youngest daughter passed away at birth in Dec 2011 which inspired me to enhance my relationship and my time spent with my 2-year-old. I then began to plan a future as a woman not in the work force. My daughter's father fortunately made a good enough salary to enable this. Unfortunately, the grieving process caused some changes in myself and others, and over time I realized relying on someone else and their income would no longer be an option. Changes were going to have to be made, and I was overwhelmed and scared.

Coming through the New Choices Program (NC) was an enlightening experience I had not anticipated. I entered strictly with the scholarship money in mind—having realized that education was my best option in terms of creating a good life for myself and my daughter, going forward. However, as a result of NC I have seen many positive changes (Yes, in 2 weeks!) and I anticipate more to come. I have learned to appreciate myself for who I am in my core—not always feeling the need for approval from others. I have seen I am a capable, intelligent, determined woman and I have been inspired immensely by the support and attitude I have seen in Tricia. I know I am not alone. I am struggling, and I will continue to struggle, but I am not alone.

I believe that participating in New Choices was a refreshing, uplifting experience as well as a wise choice to have made. I can only hope that women would find this much encouragement and this type of “pillar” as they go through life. In my class alone, I saw women from many different walks of life, each with their own goals and each of us is walking away with our heads higher. I am hopeful that in the future, many more women can feel rewarded and optimistic about opportunities ahead of them, this course provides ambition. Who knew there were castles in the air?! We can do it!

Since completing the New Choices program, I have graduated from LCCTC as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), and I am working as a LPN at Southeast Lancaster Health Services. I am thrilled to have a job from which I can help others and provide a stable, happy, and peaceful home for me and my daughter. She will grow up to be a captivating, stimulating, and confident woman. I will be her example and number one fan.