



## **PATRICIA'S STORY OF SUCCESS**



“TLP boosted my self-esteem and gave me a brighter outlook on life.”

Growing up, Patricia lived with her mother, but after repeated conflicts over her homosexuality, she left home when she was 17. She slept on a friend’s floor for a while until she heard about Teen Living Programs from a social worker at school. Patricia remembers the day she came to Belfort House at age 18 as “the day my life changed.” She says TLP taught her necessary life skills, such as how to cook, do laundry, and manage her finances.

Patricia finished her high school degree while maintaining seasonal work at UPS. After nine months at Belfort, she graduated into her own apartment through CaSSA, TLP’s independent living program. Patricia plans to attend college in the fall and finish a degree in social work. She currently works as a clerk for Kroger and has previously worked for the Illinois Secretary of State’s office. She also serves on the executive board of the National Network for Runaway and Homeless Youth.