



Savannah is seventh from the left

The Faces of ADVOCAP Savannah

My name is Savannah and this picture was taken at the Open House of the Fresh Start home I helped build. The house is located at 136 Rose Avenue in Fond du Lac if you want to take a look.

I was given the opportunity to speak at the event and I told the people there how ADVOCAP's Fresh Start program gave me a second chance at life.

Before enrolling in the program, I was homeless and living a week here and two weeks there with anyone who would take me in. I had a minimum wage job and couldn't support myself. My mother had died a month earlier and I had nowhere to go.

A friend told me to call ADVOCAP and I was able to qualify for the Fresh Start program. Fresh Start is a non-traditional employment and training program that works with youth ages 17 to 24 who face multiple barriers to employment.

Everyday I go to the job site and work on building a home. My supervisor is teaching me important skills like setting and achieving goals, how to get along with people, working as a team and budgeting my money. The program has rules and consequences just like any job, which is great because I need that kind of structure in my life.

But the most important things my mentors at ADVOCAP gave me were a second chance and someone to believe in me. Because they believe in me, it's a lot easier for me to believe in me.

When I'm done with the program, I want to go to college to be a probation officer or a social worker. I want to help people who are in trouble. I'm dreaming again and that's not something I could do a year ago.