

## Dislocated Worker Assistance Recipient: Jeffery (JD) Martin

Two years ago in March of 2008 I was working in Crawfordsville, IN at Heidtman Steel. It was not my life-long dream to work in a factory, but circumstances, insurance, and paying the bills led me to Heidtman Steel. After 13 years of employment with Heidtman, I figured I would retire from there. In April 2008 my life would change forever...for the better. The president of the company made the announcement that the plant would be closing. After the initial shock I told my wife I wanted to go back to school. I did not know how we would do it but I knew I had to try. Ironically, just three years before my job loss I awoke to what would be my future career. I just didn't know it at the time.

Our 18 month old daughter and I were in a serious car accident and after a 10 day coma I woke up in Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. The first nurse I saw when I awoke was a male nurse named Steve. Steve was terrific! I thought, "I wish I could do this (nursing) and help people as I have been helped." But I also knew that it was not financially possible.

Three years later, when July came and the plant officially closed, I started looking into taking classes and what it would take to become a nurse. I had to go to Community Action (WorkOne) for my unemployment. While there Mickie Jones let me know of a program they had which helped dislocated workers enter educational programs to prepare for their next career and improve their life through advanced education. Fortunately for me I qualified for the help. After a year and a half of prerequisite courses I have finished my 1<sup>st</sup> semester of the nursing program at Danville Area Community College.

Thank God for the Community Action Program! I'm not sure I could pay for my school without their assistance. It takes everything we have just to pay the bills. The gas money helps me to get to and from school and is very beneficial. There has been money for my books also. My nursing books alone were around \$1,000. I never dreamed I would be in this situation but I can't wait to start my new and rewarding career. Thanks to Community Action Program of Western Indiana and WorkOne I can achieve this goal.

With Great Gratitude,  
Jeffery (JD) Martin