

Success Story



In 2001, Julia came to the Society seeking aid for her rent. She spoke very little English and received low wages for cleaning houses. She was diligent in working long hours, but was unable to make ends meet. The Vincentians at St. Martin of Tours Conference in Bethpage were compelled by her tenacity to improve her life and that of her two children, so much that they've remained connected to her for ten years. The relationship that they've established has truly transformed Julia's life and that of the Vincentians as well. During their home visits they discovered that

in addition to rent assistance, Julia desired citizenship, education, and real stability. She was a high school graduate preparing to be a CNA (Certified Nurse Assistant) in her native country, but that became a dream deferred when she moved to the United States. In addition to paying her rent, the Conference decided to support Julia through the process of improving her English, becoming a citizen and obtaining her CNA license. "It wasn't our intension to continue helping her for such a long period, but after a certain point there was no turning back. Helping Julia became a personal priority for me and a mission for our Conference," said Kathleen Wilson, a Vincentian at St. Martin of Tours for over three decades. Over the past ten years Julia has become like family to the Conference. St. Martin was with her as she studied English and Math at Farmingdale College and Kathleen personally watched as Julia became a citizen of the United States on June 26, 2011. Thanks to personal donations made by people inspired by her story, Julia will begin studying to obtain her CNA license at the Nassau BOCES Adult Evening Program in the spring of 2012. Once she receives her license and begins working in the field, she'll be able to better care for her children. Julia aspires to become a registered nurse in the future.