



**Brenda Velazquez-Charo**

## Foundation stepped in when I needed them most

Brenda Velazquez-Charo was seeking a career shift from the day care business she had operated for several years. She discovered her new career passion of human services at Gateway Technical College—but realized along the way that she would need some financial help to give her the extra boost to realize that dream. Two scholarships from the Gateway Technical College Foundation Inc. gave her the opportunity to succeed in her education—and propel her into a new career in human services.

“Without those scholarships, it would have been extremely hard, almost impossible, for me to continue,” says Brenda. “The financial burdens of the home were solely on my husband’s shoulders. Not only was I not contributing financially as I had in the past, but I also had expenses with my

education. Pursuing my education was my dream, and the scholarship helped me to push forward. I am very appreciative to the Foundation.”

During her time at Gateway, Brenda received two scholarships and emergency grants which helped her to defray travel expenses to and from class. “It was \$20 a week, but, spread out over the semester, it really helped,” says Brenda. “It went a long way to helping me.”

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Brenda graduated in May 2013 and will soon be in that career, helping people because she was helped by a Foundation scholarship.

“The scholarship allowed all this to happen,” says Brenda. “I don’t think many people realize until they’ve been in the situation that I was, where you have to stretch every dollar you have, how much that scholarship can mean to you and your future.”