

Hello, my name is Jhadiya Steele, and I have been in the Career Pathways program at Pillsbury United since it started.

I grew up over on the northside of Minneapolis most of my life until I began to move to the suburbs due to how crime affected my family. I realized that when I left the cities, I began to lose myself because I was seen as an outcast in the suburban areas, I lived in. Due to prices being so high in our living space I gained the stereotype of many black and brown children that I need to work to provide for my family, because even though we weren't in the hood, we were still living in the mindset of poverty.

The reason I joined this program is because being a teen without the financial stability and adulting skills to go to college and truly adult to stand on my own, I didn't really see college in my future, so I looked for work instead. From the moment I joined the program I have learned so many adulting skills I need that have helped me to be able to stand my ground. If it had not been for this program, I would not be able to do all the things I am able to do now as a student pursuing a certificate/degree in Human Services. This program has not only provided me with funds to make ends meet when it comes to living necessities, but they have provided wrap-around services such as tutoring, transportation, and direction to counseling. Had it not been for this program I would still be living in the mindset of poverty trying to figure things out on my own with no idea of how to even conduct myself when it comes to etiquette, work readiness, and even planning for what's to come next in my future after this program.

I strive to give back to my community out of what my community is investing in me through this program. With each cent I receive from this program I have been saving it, because this program has helped me to plan for my future. After fulfilling this program and going into the work field of human services I intend to go to the college at Howard University to get my degree in psychology and music therapy. After retrieving this I want open up my own one stop shop self-care center, which I would like to be centrally located somewhere near the cities to allow for people of our community to come in, get a full salon relaxation experience to then have a one on one session with me to solve some of these issues that are often repeated through generations of African American people due to the struggle of poverty.