

El Barrio Success



Aatron, a young single father who worked as a landscaper, struggled to find a more stable job to support himself and his daughter.

He came to El Barrio in January of 2010 after his case worker at Cuyahoga County's Employment & Family Services Program referred him to the Job Readiness and Job Search programs. After completing mock interviews and perfecting his resume, Aatron searched diligently for employment for six months with nearly perfect attendance.

"I loved El Barrio," he said. "Everyone welcomed you in and kept you comfortable until you found a job." Aatron found employment at a factory in Cleveland in June and is still there today.

While talking about his job, Aatron was all smiles. He enjoys the people that he works with and his work schedule allows him to spend a lot of time with his daughter. "My life is all about balance now," said Aatron. "When I am not at work, I am taking my daughter ice skating and out [to eat]."

Aatron credits El Barrio with helping him find a job in what was a tough economic time and emphasizes the importance of dedicating oneself to the Job Search program. "You have to be patient, keep trying, and keep putting in applications. You have to make [El Barrio's Job Search] a part of your life; I made it a part of mine...If I had to go back, I would!"