

Gilbert woman a Face of Success

by *Chelsea Schneider* - Oct. 25, 2008 07:00 AM
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A Gilbert woman is being recognized by Arizona Woman's Education & Employment for her perseverance during a hard time in her family's life.

Dana Whitworth and her husband came to the organization last November after they both lost their jobs and were in danger of losing their house. A year later, Whitworth will be recognized as a Faces of Success honoree along with two other Valley residents at a luncheon on Nov. 6.

The organization offers career training and support services for unemployed women and their families.

Whitworth's caseworker Peri Hammons said the family needed support and assistance in crafting a direction and has worked hard to get back on their feet.

"Dana stepped up and has done everything that has been requested of her and has set goals for herself and accomplished those goals," Hammons said. "She has just really propelled herself forward very quickly."

Whitworth, who is studying to become a registered nurse, shared her thoughts on the honor with the *Gilbert Republic*.

How did it feel to be named a Faces of Success honoree?

"I felt very honored. I just trucked along and went after my goals and whatever we set in front of me. I've never had anything happen like this."

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How did the organization help you achieve your goals?

"It helps having the support of the program and a caseworker when you don't have anything else and feel like you're at the bottom of the totem pole. It helps you have hope and see things a little bit differently. When you are going through a rough time, you totally feel like you are all alone, but with this program I never felt like that or ashamed."

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