

## Opportunity Partners helped Saido start a new life

Just three years ago, Saido Yusuf was living in a Somali refugee camp in Kenya, Africa.

Like so many others who fled the war to find safety in a new land, Saido and her family eventually ended up in Minneapolis, eager to start a new life.

Saido is the mother of two daughters and had been on welfare several years. The story of her transformation began with a personal commitment. She took her mother's advice and sought an education in order to be able to support her family. She began taking English as a Second Language classes in the afternoon and searched for work in the mornings. Her first job was with Opportunity Partners through its welfare-to-work collaboration. Saido's ability to speak English and her excellent comprehension of the skills needed on the Opportunity Partners' production floor made her rise to the top quickly.

She then joined an Opportunity Partners team at a community job. This position demanded speed and accuracy, and she was found to be a reliable asset to the group. When that temporary position ended, Saido returned to Opportunity Partners production floor, where she once again proved to be a stable and capable leader. She also possessed another key skill: the ability to serve as a translator for others. Currently, she is finding success in yet another setting, working as part of an Opportunity Partners team at a company in Bloomington.

In June 2006, Saido transitioned into unsubsidized employment through MFIP, the MN Family Investment Program. The main goal of this program is to help families move off welfare.

Saido's successes reflect the successes of Opportunity Partners. Saido's ambition and skills allowed her to secure higher paying positions. Not only have her wages increased, but so has her family's well-being and Saido's self-esteem. Saido recently was awarded Opportunity Partners' Achieving Your Dreams award for her outstanding success.



**Saido Yusuf recently earned an Achieving Your Dreams award from Opportunity Partners.**