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Ruth Nzegwu



When I first heard of the Career Ladder, I was on the verge of dropping out of college due to financial difficulties and my husband's illness. I was the sole financial provider for a family of eight, and we were in debt. A coworker, who was a member of Career Ladder, asked if I would like to become a member.

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I was pleasantly surprised that they did not ask for an entry fee or membership fee as some organizations do, so I joined and began my performance assessments. Each time I completed a higher level of performance assessment, I got more money for the units I took in college.

During this time, my husband passed away, and I could not meet some deadlines with the Career Ladder. I was confused, but when I talked to Joe Ryan, he assured me that Career Ladder was there to help me. He patiently went over what I needed to do and my papers were processed. This was very encouraging and motivating.

I applied for the Career Ladder Scholarship and I got it. With the Career Ladder Scholarship, financial aid and my salary, I was able to take care of the whole family. For my children's sake, I was ready to quit college and take up odd jobs, but I did not have to because of the help of the Career Ladder.

In May of 2001, I was hired as a Special Education Trainee at Banneker Special Education Center. Though my husband has been gone for more than two years, my education continues because the Career Ladder was there for me. My children are all doing well in school and in the corporate world. I am almost done with my credential program and I will be glad to give back to the source that has given me so much more. Thank you Career Ladder. I will always be grateful to you because I would not be where I am in my education and career today if you had not been there to pull me through.

