

PRESS RELEASE

July 29, 2009

Kate Woolley (Left) and Jamie Jensen (Right), employees of Home Bound Healthcare are pictured with Robin Ehlers, R.N. (Center), instructor for New Start Inc., Basic Nursing Assistant Program. Woolley and Jensen graduated from this program on July 27, 2009 as Nurse Assistants. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is promoting new models for expanding career advancement opportunities for current healthcare workers employed by hospitals, long term care facilities, and home health agencies to fill critical and growing needs in the healthcare industry.



As part of its nationwide effort, The Step-Up Training Project is a new model program that encourages employers to recruit current healthcare workers to become Certified Nursing Assistants and provide them the opportunity to pursue further healthcare career opportunities.

Home Bound Healthcare, as a participating employer, identified and referred Woolley and Jensen, their current employees, to New Start Inc. to be considered for enrollment in a Certified Nursing Assistant program at no cost to the employer or the workers.

New Start Inc. provided a 17-day intensive training course to prepare these workers to be Certified Nursing Assistants. New Start, Inc. will work with Home Bound Healthcare and its workers who have completed the CNA program to provide further career and training opportunities, as appropriate. Since Woolley and Jensen have completed this CNA program, if they choose to continue their education into nursing, they are eligible to apply for full tuition and text book reimbursement with the nursing program they choose to attend after completing their prerequisites. In fact, their New Start instructor Robin Ehlers, R.N. (above, center) is currently completing her master's degree fully paid through the program.

The Administrator of the Home Bound Healthcare – Peoria office, Mr. Joe Park, can be reached at (309) 589-0888 or JPark@HomeBoundHealth.com for further information about the program. Ms. Linda M. Hovey, Program Director at New Start, Inc. can be contacted at (877) 522-3799 or NewStartInc@SBCGlobal.net.

This program is available in Henry, Marshall, Peoria and surrounding counties. Courses are offered beginning the first of every month.