

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Student Achievement



ROSEMARY OSADEBE

“Words in the English dictionary do not provide one with the terms that appropriately describe the amount of talent and decency practiced daily by this young lady. She is a positive leader amongst her peers with an inordinate amount of maturity.”

*Wayne Harris, Students in Temporary Housing Content Expert,
New York City Department of Education*

Rosemary Osadebe grew up in a large family and her father, a diplomat, and mother, a security guard, worked tirelessly to provide for the family. Despite her father's college education and her mother's continuing efforts to take on more work, Rosemary and her five siblings often found themselves without basic necessities.

After the passing of her father, Rosemary's mother moved the family to the United States from Nigeria with the hope that they would find greater opportunities. In spite of financial hardships and living in transitional housing, Rosemary focused on the values that her parents taught her and aimed to rise above her circumstances and achieve her dreams.

As a student in temporary housing, Rosemary became involved in the female empowerment group ASET (All Sisters Evolving Together), which helps female high school students develop strong academic and social skills. ASET introduced her to the Overcoming Obstacles Life Skills Program, and a lesson on budgeting opened her eyes to the struggles her parents faced trying to support their large family. It was the first time she had heard of the concept of budgeting and how it serves as a guideline for financial responsibility.

Using Overcoming Obstacles life skills, Rosemary was able to maintain her high grades and play on her school's varsity soccer team. Last spring, she graduated from Hillcrest High School, Queens, New York and is currently enrolled at Sullivan County Community College, Loch Sheldrake, New York. Rosemary is pursuing a career in nursing, and hopes that her future career in medicine will provide a strong foundation for the next generation of her family.

