



**Life is a series of transitions. We all move from one season to the next. But some changes are much more unpredictable... surprising even. Today, at age 25, Vyonna thinks back to her life just two years ago. She says she can't believe the transition that has taken place. In fact, she says what has happened feels more like a transformation.**

In 2014, Vyonna was completing probation for a domestic violence offense and the court ordered her to complete Goodwill's Flip the Script Women's Empowerment Program. Over the course of eight weeks, she joined a group of 25 young women who learned time management, home skills, communication and personal finance together. She worked with her community reintegration coordinator, Sheila Spencer, to acquire the skills and positive mindset needed to get a second chance at an independent and productive adult life. Vyonna says that Flip the Script taught her to set goals, to have confidence, and to never give up.



Vyonna meets with her boss, Rebecca Dioso, before the HR team kicks off open enrollment for ALTA's employees.



Vyonna is going back to college to continue her education and hopes to eventually grow into a role supporting the information technology department at her company.

She shares, "After my conviction and time in jail, I felt like my life was over... like this one mistake was going to prevent me from ever getting it together. But Ms. Spencer helped me see that I could start over. Goodwill gave me the tools and connections. I just ran with it." As her group completed the program, she was excited to see peers earn jobs and start career positions. Vyonna knew that meant she could do it, too. And in time, she did. Just over a year ago, she was hired by ALTA Equipment Company in Livonia to become an assistant in the human resources department. She says her new job is rewarding and a good fit because it allows her to use her organizing skills. She likes being part of team and takes pride in the role she plays to help make ALTA a great place to work for the company's 600+ employees.

This afternoon, she's moving quickly through the office to get ready for the open enrollment period which starts next week. She files a stack of papers and returns to her desk. A photo near her computer catches her eye. It's from a weekend outing with her three young children and it reminds her of why all of this is so important. Vyonna explains, "I'm not just an employee or a hard worker or a Flip the Script graduate... I'm a role model. My kids are watching me. I've got to show them what it looks like to do it right."

Goodwill's Sheila Spencer comments, "When I see Vyonna, I'm reminded of the very reason why we do everything we do at Goodwill. She's a success. She's a shining star and a great example of what this program can do to give people a second chance at life." Of course, Vyonna's employer is a key partner in this process as well. Her supervisor, Rebecca Dioso, explains why ALTA was willing to take Vyonna on. "We actively participate with Goodwill because we support its mission. Vyonna began as a temporary hire and eventually became a permanent member of our team because of her optimistic attitude and willingness to learn. She has made great strides in her personal life that have transferred to her professional career. Our investment in her has been worth it. Goodwill changes lives, families and communities. As a business, we are very pleased to be part of that."