3,963
SCHOOL-BASED
PATIENTS

8,442
PATIENT
ENCOUNTERS
FOR MENTAL
HEALTH
SERVICES

FROM PATIENT
TO PROVIDER

Never settle for less than what you deserve.

Isetta Pierre, a licensed marriage and family therapist, learned this lesson as a teenager from Sandy Naughton, health promotion manager at Minnesota Community Care. When Isetta was in high school, Sandy was her support group leader and her role model, proving to be a bright, caring, and inspiring leader. Through their student/mentor relationship and participation in the support groups, Isetta found a safe place at her school and connected with a community of diverse women who encouraged and guided her through life's numerous challenges. Through it all, Sandy's message to her – "never settle for less than what you deserve" – was the inspiration that helped shape her future.

Health Start, Minnesota Community Care's school-based clinic program, provides middle- and high-school students in St. Paul Public Schools with accessible, multidisciplinary care. The first school-based clinic model in the country, Health Start providers have partnered with students to reach their full potential for more than 40 years, linking students to integrated primary care, nutrition services, mental health therapy, and health education.

After participating in Health Start, Isetta would always tell Sandy, "I want to do what you did for me when I was in school."

Now, that dream is a reality. As a mental health therapist at Minnesota Community Care, Isetta provides care to students at our school-based clinics. Even better, she can officially call herself one of Sandy's peers.

"I'm thrilled to return the support I received and to have the opportunity to be a "Sandy" in the lives of the students I work with," Isetta enthuses.

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