



FAVARH - THE ARC OF THE FARMINGTON VALLEY

Spotlight on Staff

OLAMIDE OLAMIDE

DSP, DAY SERVICES

Olamide Olamide (pronounced O-La-Myde) is a Direct Support Professional with Favarh's Day Services Program. He works at LEP3 in Avon as a one-to-one with several individuals. He came to Favarh as a temp worker with Delta T before being hired by Favarh full-time in 2019.

Olamide was born in Nigeria. He holds a bachelor's degree in Economics and a master's degree in Marketing. During his life as a father and a husband in Nigeria, he worked as a manager for 15 years with an outdoor advertising firm in the capital city of Lagos.

In 2017, Olamide immigrated to the United States with his family and was granted asylum by the U.S. courts after an application process that lasted two years. During this time, he moved to Hartford with his wife and three children to live with a sponsor family they received through their association with the Winner's Chapel International. They lived in Hartford until his family was able to afford a place of their own.

To make a living for his family, he worked three jobs - one with Delta T at Favarh and another with Catholic Charities in a group home, and finally with his remaining hours as an Uber driver. After saving enough to live apart from his sponsor, his family settled into their own apartment in Bloomfield.

His twin sons Oluwaseyifunmi and Oreoluwa are 20 years old and attending college at Central Connecticut State University and Manchester Community College. His daughter Ayomide is 14 and attends University High School of Science and Technology as a sophomore. Although the culture, the physical environment, and the education system are different in the U.S. from

Nigeria, his children were at an age that allowed them to more easily adapt to their new surroundings when they immigrated. Their transition was also helped by the fact that the language spoken in Nigeria is English. Olamide is most proud of his children's achievements in school as they are all good students graduating with honors.

Olamide is devoted to his Day Program participants and to his work at Favarh. "One thing I realize about working with our individuals. When you do something genuinely from your heart, God sends you rewards." Olamide continues. "That makes me even more committed because when you see how much you make a difference in their lives, you see God's favor."

Olamide speaks very highly of all the managers he has worked for at Favarh, including his current manager, Jon. "We work like a team," he emphasizes. "There is no discrimination. Sit down together, if you have issues, you can talk to your manager. They are always ready to provide a solution."

"Believe in yourself, believe in God and be sincere." That is his philosophy.

In his advice to colleagues, he says, "On the job, show more love, show patience and be committed and tolerant. Help your individual to have a sense of belonging and to have a social life. Play basketball, games, educate them. Give them math problems, puzzles to increase their sense of reasoning. God gave them each, every one of them, a special talent and we just need to help them achieve their goals."