



**Making Dream Happen:  
The Tough Journey  
by: Itedra Clopton**

Many students believe they are insanely busy with school, extracurricular activities and part time jobs. Grand View University Alum, Zippora Ng'elechei takes that predisposition to another level. Kenyan born and raised, Zippora came to the U.S. to get married but also brought with her a teaching license from Moi University in Kenya. Instead of starting all over again in getting a degree, she was able to get all of her credentials and paperwork transferred. "When you come here and you don't even know where to start, sometimes it can be really confusing, but I'm glad I just did whatever I had to do," she says.

After coming to America, Zippora got a job in direct support. Later, her paperwork from Kenya came in, she officially had her degree to teach in America. She got offered a job at

Ankeny Christian Academy and was hired to teach 5th through 12th grade math. That was a lot for her and she only lasted a year. During her first year of teaching, she was also still working at her direct support job while she was a mom to a young baby. "It was really hard for me to really adjust."

She persevered and applied and went to six different colleges to determine her next path in life. She started googling nursing college and found Grand View was offering a BSN program, which she applied to. Right as she got this new opportunity, her home life fell apart. She had a baby son when she separated from her husband, moved out of their place and ending up staying with a friend for a month before she could find her own place. "It was a really hard time", she stressed..

After, she picked herself up & continued on with her classes, her full time job, raising a little baby boy and learning how all of the American systems work for a year and a half. She met her current husband and got pregnant with her little girl. Her pregnancy was far from perfect and she struggled with preeclampsia. Her doctor ordered her on bedrest, but she refused until she was 35 weeks, because finals were coming up. She ended up delivering a premature baby and missing finals. Just a mere two weeks later, she was back at work and school, where her professors worked with her and let her complete her finals.

Her motivation for working so hard? Her dad. “As kids we were told you can do anything and can achieve anything you want.” She is currently pregnant with her third child and unbelievably, taking it easy. About life now she says, “It’s a struggle, but achievable. If you’re really determined you’ll get it.”