

Each year, over 100 people complete job training programs at Project Hope. We want to share with you the story of one of these people. Each quarter, we will update you on the journey of Queen, a woman of strength and courage.

A Year in the Life: Queen's Journey

Queen found herself wondering how her life had become so **unproductive and stagnant**. She thought to herself, "I have three children. I have no job, no friends, and very little family support." She wondered how it had gotten this bad. She could not see a way out.

Queen comes from a large, boisterous family of 15 children. She was especially close with one brother. They were both born in Boston, grew up in Florida, and then relocated back to Boston together. When her brother passed away unexpectedly, Queen fell into a depression. Filled with a deep sadness she could not shake, she sat in a room with the lights off. She did not want to leave the house. She felt hopeless. These were dark days for Queen.

Her cousin, Toddye, suggested she consider applying for Project Hope's Workforce Development & Employer Partnerships (WDEP) program. A WDEP graduate herself, Toddye knew the program could help her cousin rebuild her life. Queen decided to register for a WDEP Open House. Toddye told her what to expect – dress professionally and be on time. She would take tests to determine the level of her English, math and computer skills. If her test scores met the requirements, she would be invited back for an interview.

The process – Open House, tests, intake interviews – felt disheartening to Queen. She wanted a job, now. She wanted to change her life, now. She worried that Project Hope would see through her mask, and see the sadness that overwhelmed her. But, knowing that she could no longer dwell in the darkness, that she had to get out of the house, rejoin life, and build a life without her brother, she steeled herself and walked into Project Hope.

So many of our participants felt as Queen felt – lost, hopeless, confused, stuck. So many were fearful and unsure about asking for help. When they did, thanks to the many supporters of Project Hope, our doors were open, our participants could find what they needed – patient and caring instructors who could teach them valuable skills and rebuild their confidence and self-esteem.

When Queen got the call that she had been accepted into the Community Partners in the Health Professions (CPHP) program at WDEP, she was in a quandary. She had just gone on an interview at the Registry of Motor Vehicles. She wasn't sure if she should commit to the three-month long CPHP program, or wait to see if the job panned out. She decided to go to Project Hope, feeling that the CPHP program would give her what she needed professionally and emotionally.

Coming Up Next: New Beginnings – Starting CPHP