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Right Where I'm Supposed to Be!

As a Registered Nurse RN, Imelda was used to simply showing her credentials to get work, but since the economic downturn, her qualifications were no longer a sure ticket to secure a job. By the time she was referred to WHW by the local One Stop Center, Imelda had already been looking for a position for a month and was convinced she would never find employment.

The first person Imelda met at WHW was an Employment Readiness Specialist who discussed her career options, provided a roadmap for pursuing job opportunities and helped her put together a Professional Resume, which Imelda did not have. Then Imelda started attending WHW Job Club and Employment Readiness Workshops. She regularly attended the weekly Mock Interview Workshop, where her practice interviews were videotaped, allowing Imelda to improve the skill of putting her best foot forward.



But Imelda had nothing to wear to an interview. "All I had was scrubs and jeans," she recalled. WHW provided Imelda with two complete interview outfits including shoes and accessories. But even with her resume, interview skills and new professional look, Imelda still lacked the confidence that is critical to stand out among other job seekers. But Imelda continued to participate in WHW's Employment Success Program, hoping for the best, expecting the worse.

One day when Imelda was feeling particularly low she showed up to a WHW workshop and the volunteer workshop facilitator came up behind her, put her hand on Imelda's shoulder and said, "I'm really glad you're here Imelda." When Imelda turned to look at the WHW volunteer, she saw something in her eyes. "I realized that this person had a connection with me and that I mattered." Imelda began to believe that she could do it, just like WHW said she could.

In November Imelda was hired as a Case Manager with Senior Life Management, her dream job. And after Imelda rang the WHW Bell of Success, she literally jumped for joy. "I couldn't have done it without WHW!" Imelda exclaimed. "I'm right where I'm supposed to be!"

About WHW. WHW is a 501(c)(3) whose mission is to provide comprehensive employment support services to empower disadvantaged men, women and teens to achieve economic self sufficiency through employment success and who has served over 40,000 clients since 1993. WHW's Employment Success Program includes resume and interviewing skills, workshops, computer classes, image consulting, professional clothing appropriate for interviews and transportation services. Supported by United Way, WHW's services are always at no charge or obligation to clients and 260 referring non-profit partners. For more information on WHW and its Employment Success Program, go to www.whw.org.

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