

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

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## Utilizing Her Journey to Help Others



Big hearted, full-of-life and charismatic, WHW client Deborah could not fathom that she would find herself without a roof over her head...after all she ran a ministry for the homeless, extending a helping hand to those who didn't have a home. Never did she imagine that she would one day find herself in their shoes.

Deborah had made the difficult decision to be a whistleblower for an institution to which she dedicated many years and found herself unemployed and dipping into her savings while she struggled to find work. Over time the money eroded and even when Deborah lost her home, her family was unable to provide assistance.

Deborah looked for a shelter that would provide housing to a senior woman with no mental illness or addictions, but none was available. So as unbelievable as it was, Deborah found herself sleeping in her car at the local Walmart Shopping Center with her belongings stuffed around her. "I was so blessed to have a car and that Walmart parking lot became a safe haven for me," said Deborah. Desperate, depressed and dispirited, she came to WHW for Employment Readiness Services. Deborah met with an Employment Readiness Coordinator, attended workshops, received a professional resume and learned and practiced critical interview skills. Utilizing the resources and tools provided by WHW, Deborah landed a job with Caring Matters as a Senior Communications Representative, a position she loves and flourishes in today.

Now Deborah wants to utilize her journey to help open a shelter for women 50 years and older that will provide a safe haven for these special seniors so they don't have to roam the streets and live in their car like she did. "Now that I've walked in their shoes," Deborah said thoughtfully, "I see things differently."

**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](http://www.whw.org).

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