Paulette immigrated to the U.S. from Guyana in 2011 to be close to her family. She'd had a career back home but struggled to translate her skills into employment here. A health scare forced her to halt her job search around the same time she faced an apartment fire that destroyed the home she shared with her mom and sister. She found herself sick, without a job, and now without a home.

When Paulette saw a brochure for The HOPE Program, the name resonated with her. She didn't know what to expect, but the warm greeting she received on the first day told her she found the right place. At HOPE she learned to interview with confidence, to create a standout résumé, and even ways to practice mindfulness to help her through tough times.

Paulette excelled in the program and her internship. She was hired as a Program Assistant at HOPE, serving as a role model and support to other HOPE jobseekers. Healthy and happy, Paulette is a survivor in more ways than one, and is thankful she always has HOPE.

“I like listening to people and helping, which is a big part of my new job. I plan to go to school for social work. Because of HOPE, I know I can do anything.”

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20% of HOPE staff are graduates of our programs.
GOING GREEN

Juan survived a childhood many have only seen in movies. His mother was incarcerated, his father was abusive, and a drunk driver shattered his foot and his football dreams. After dropping out of school in 9th grade, he struggled with drug addiction and fell into the criminal justice system. Juan felt his future was bleak, and is the first to admit he was “wasting his life.” He had nearly given up on himself when a friend told him about HOPE’s green jobs training.

He found the program challenging at first, and credits the staff and his classmates for constantly pushing him. Juan became certified in workplace safety, lead abatement, first aid, and other skills related to green construction and maintenance. He also gained people skills he had never been taught before.

Juan’s first job after graduating was in recycling, allowing him to put his new skills to use and make New York City more sustainable. Juan aims to keep his grandfather’s legacy alive by becoming a building superintendent and a role model for his seven-year old son. He continues to work with HOPE to progress toward his goal of establishing a lasting career in green maintenance.

At HOPE, they told me, ‘You got this!’ I never had any of that growing up.” –Juan
Ely, born and raised in the Bronx, has a lot of pride in her home borough. But she faced challenges growing up: addiction, abuse, and homelessness. She vividly recalls the rodents from the shelter where she spent her teen years. “It felt like I never really had a childhood.” Her struggles followed her into young adulthood, as she dropped out of high school and faced criminal charges.

She learned about HOPE from another successful program graduate. “I’m thankful for all the certifications I earned - OSHA, energy retrofitting, scaffolding, and others. Without one or the other, I wouldn’t be as marketable.”

Ely is also proud of the planting and park cleanup projects her training class did to make the Bronx greener. “It felt good to be part of something in my neighborhood.”

Today, Ely works as an energy auditor, ensuring that apartments across the city have environmentally friendly plumbing and lighting. She has big plans for the future, but keeps coming back to HOPE in the meantime. “This place uplifts me. No matter how far I go, when I come back, it reminds me of my purpose and to get back on my grind.”

The staff at HOPE helped mold me and embedded in my head that you have to be professional no matter what.”

-Ely
Students and graduates earned $11,100,000

New Yorkers turned to HOPE to build sustainable futures - a record high! We’re on track to grow by another 25% this year.

Achieved 77% job placement

Increased Earnings

$16.62 Starting Wages

$19.00 Wages at One Year*

Of graduates maintain jobs for a year or more.

*Projection based on wage growth of previous cohorts of jobseekers.
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