



**THE
HOPE
PROGRAM**



Every morning I unlock a park that nobody came to thirty years ago, and every night I lock it up again. HOPE opened a door for me when I needed it. Now I get to keep one open for my neighbors. Help HOPE open the next one.

JERELL WHITE, HOPE GRADUATE

“Some people come to us for a second chance, some for a first chance, some just for a helping hand. What every one of them brings is the will to work. What HOPE adds is access — the training, the credentials, the networks, and people in their corner who won't let them go it alone. The goal isn't a first job. It's a career, it's advancement, it's prosperity.”

TRACEY CAPERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Every graduate who walks through HOPE's doors carries that change forward, into their families, their neighborhoods, and the people who enter the program after them. Here are a few of their stories.

Candida Herbin came to HOPE at a hard moment. She had lost her mother and been through surgery. After months of not knowing where to turn, she called 311 and was referred to HOPE, a program a friend had once told her about.

She expected to earn a certification and head to a construction site, but HOPE offered more, including a community of people from across the city, all working toward something better.

Staff helped her find not just a job but the right fit. That led to an internship at The Horticultural Society of New York, a stint at the Central Park Conservancy, and a permanent role back at the Horticultural Society, transforming green space in neighborhoods that rarely receive that investment.

Today, she supervises a team of four, maintaining gardens at housing developments across the city.

In her own words: "What you're really doing is picking people up off the ground. Sometimes the skill someone learns is life-changing in ways that go far beyond the job site. For some people, it's life-saving. You are giving someone extra time and attention at the moment they need it most. You are helping them through a crisis. HOPE helped me through mine."



**CANDIDA'S
STORY**



**GLENN'S
STORY**

"September 28th, 2018. Prior to me coming to the HOPE program, I got released from prison. You know, I wanted to get the ball going, and it was January 12th, 2019, that's the day I started The HOPE Program. That's the day that my life really started to develop as a real human being to this society."

In 2019, Glenn found employment at Racanelli Construction Company Inc. and today is lead carpenter there as well, earning \$25.75 an hour, about 51% more than New York City's \$17 minimum wage.

Chermaine Black graduated from The HOPE Program in 2004. What she built from there speaks for itself: 15 years at the Fortune Society, a Master of Social Work, and now a role at Volunteers of America, where she spends her days helping others find the same kind of path she once did.

Chermaine credits HOPE with setting that path in motion. Two decades later, she is still walking it and bringing others along with her.

"That's what HOPE does," Chermaine says. "A lot of folks have a lot going on. Being there for them through thick and thin, trying to understand where they're coming from, and letting them in, that's what HOPE did for me."



**CHERMAINE'S
STORY**

HOPE's work happens one person at a time, across the city, year after year.
Here's what this work looked like this past year:



We've served more than 1,000 individuals, including 400+ program participants, 600 alumni, and nearly 100 workshop participants across New York City, plus thousands more through our green infrastructure work.



We deepened our geographic-concentration strategy and continued CoolRoofs, benefiting an estimated 2,600 residents through reflective-roof installations — cutting cooling costs by roughly 15% and reducing extreme-heat health risks.

HOPE crews completed 100+ green work engagements across 30 sites in 4 boroughs, removing 16,000+ lbs of litter and debris (3,600+ cubic feet) from parks, medians, and community gardens.



Our Horticulture crew maintained 14 rain gardens in the Soundview neighborhood of the Bronx, capturing approximately 2.2 million gallons of stormwater annually — the equivalent of about 53 Olympic-sized swimming pools.



GIFTS AT EVERY LEVEL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR PROGRAMMING.

HOPE for Life: \$100,000+

Stipends for participating cohorts

Heroes for HOPE: \$50,000 - \$99,999

Internship salaries for Building Operations participants

Sustainable Supporters: \$20,000 - \$49,999

CoolRoofs coating supplies

Career Champions: \$10,000 - \$19,999

Technology for a cohort of participants

Brighter Future Builders: \$5,000 - \$9,999

Industry certifications for program participants

Advancement Advocates: \$2,500 - \$4,999

Supplies for program graduation ceremonies

Investors: \$1,000 - \$2,499

Weekly OMNY cards for one program cohort

Neighbors: \$500 - \$999

One week's worth of wages for Horticulture participants

Friends: up to \$499

Daily meals for a cohort of participants



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THE HOPE PROGRAM

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