



Charity Spread is a young, single mom who had been knocked to the ground by life's unexpected events. She came to the Job Connection Education Program through Sergeant Hughes, who suggested to Charity, "Let's take a walk down the hall. There are some JCEP people I want you to meet." In response, Charity shrugged her shoulders and said, "Ok." After seven months of seeking employment, she didn't believe JCEP had much to offer.

The first time Charity walked through JCEP's door, she had lost hope, lost confidence, and lost dreams of a better tomorrow for herself and her son. The first person Charity met was Annette Robinson, a Training and Development Specialist with JCEP. After visiting with Charity, Annette learned that she had no resume, no interviewing clothes, difficulties with transportation, and she was living with her mom. This was a lady who needed what JCEP had to offer.

Through partnerships with local community organizations and employers, Annette began building Charity's hope. Together, a resume was completed and sent out to employers. Efren Villanueva, the Business Advisor/Site Manager, conducted practice interviews with Charity to prepare her for an actual interview.

Charity received assistance with the First Street Methodist Mission's Career Closet, who provided her with interviewing clothes, including a beautiful brand new suit that looked like it was made especially for her. Another partnership, The T (Fort Worth Transit), helped with transportation, so Charity could go to job interviews and meet with her Counselor at JCEP.

Recently, I met with Charity at the Job Connection Education Program's Job Fair held at the 56<sup>th</sup> IBCT, in Fort Worth. The first thing I noticed was the change in Charity's countenance. She was smiling, holding her head high, and laughing, and she looked absolutely beautiful in her business suit. She presented herself to the employers in a professional and confident manner. I could see that Charity recognized her own value and worth and employers did also. When speaking about what JCEP has done for her, Charity stated, "JCEP has helped me with everything! I've been through a lot and you [JCEP] helped so I can rest a little. You [JCEP] helped provide stability that I'm looking for."

Through JCEP's assistance and Charity's own skills, she was hired by FedEx, as a Package Handler, and is now attending Everest College, seeking a degree in Business Administration. One day, Charity hopes to be her own boss by owning a Real Estate office.

I asked Charity, "What is the one thing you would like others to know about JCEP?" She quickly replied, "Go and do everything you can to be a part of JCEP. The more you're a part of it, the more you benefit." When asked if she had any additional comments, Charity said, "Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. I can't say it enough." Today, she and her son are preparing to move in to their first apartment. For the first time in a very long time Charity now has hope, confidence in herself, and believes that tomorrow will be even better than today.