

IN2WORK IMPACT

EDUCATE.

ENCOURAGE.

EMPLOY.

HELEN'S STORY: STARING DOWN ADVERSITY



HELEN K.
IN2WORK Graduate, 2013
Food Service Supervisor &
I2W Instructor, 2020

Helen was incarcerated just short of two decades, serving most of her sentence at Rockville Correctional Facility for Women. While there, she completed several impactful programs, including the IN2WORK program. Helen was drawn to the kitchen through a personal passion for cooking and baking. Prior to her kitchen assignment at Rockville, Helen had never worked in a food service establishment. Being new to the environment offered her the opportunity to learn a new set of skills. This excited Helen. Using her meticulous attention to detail, she focused on the Aramark safety and sanitation regimen each shift.

Helen quickly caught the eye of the Aramark Manager, who offered her the chance to apply to the I2W program. After learning of its' many

post release opportunities, she was eager to participate. Helen graduated from I2W in 2013. As part of the program, she competed in the annual cupcake competition and regularly led study groups to help prepare students for the ServSafe certification.

“ After going through so much this program gave me a purpose and the means to support myself. In-turn, I can now pay it forward by influencing the students by instructing the I2W program as an Aramark employee. ”

Helen applied for an I2W Internship in and was unanimous selected by the Aramark team for the position. For over two years, she worked in the Aramark kitchen expanding her operational knowledge and building the necessary skill sets to earn gainful employment once released. As an intern, Helen earned minimum wage – this afforded her the comfort of supporting her family while incarcerated. Menial work inside a correctional facility passes time, but the I2W internship instills a true sense of responsibility, the sense that you have a purpose.

With her release date approaching, there were feelings of excitement and at the same time, unrest. Helen worked directly with the IN2WORK Manager to understand the employment opportunities at Aramark post release. Shortly after release, Helen was hired as a Lead Supervisor at Putnamville Correctional Facility at the Indiana Department of Corrections where she oversees a team of kitchen workers and instructs the IN2WORK program. She is living proof of everything the I2W program stands for – hard work, compassion, hope and second chances.



How has IN2WORK continued to impact your everyday?

It gives me the chance to show my grandchildren how to uplift and influence others, give my students a fair chance at living their best life when they get to return to their communities and families. You won't just be impacting people's lives, they're going impact your life also – in a major way.