

# Profiles of Hope

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For years, Lois De Luccio owned a successful business, creating custom frames for renowned photographers in New Jersey. During the economic downturn, business began to evaporate. At the same time, she and her sister began to provide round-the-clock care for her ailing, elderly parents. Eventually, Lois moved in with her sister, closed her business and faced many other challenges, including several significant health issues. After her mother passed away, she approached Project Self-Sufficiency to participate in a support group for women. Once she learned about the

opportunities for career training and job placement services at the agency, she started registering for courses in the Career Center. She took computer classes, participated in the Higher Opportunities for Women (HOW) program, obtained assistance from the Food Pantry, and utilized other resources available to her. For her externship with the HOW program, Lois was placed at Newton Medical Center. Once the program was finished, Lois was offered a job in the Patient Access department where she works today.

Lois is extremely grateful for the support she received from Project Self-Sufficiency. She volunteers extensively for the agency, bagging food for Thanksgiving, assisting with the prom shop and toy drive, and many other endeavors. Recently, her father passed away, leaving Lois with a feeling of bittersweet freedom. She is looking forward to using the extra time in her life in order to improve her workplace skills and advance in her current position at the hospital.

“Project Self-Sufficiency is a blessing. They give you a hand up and help you change your life. I will keep giving back to them as long as I am able.”

**Lois De Luccio**  
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*Lois De Luccio*

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