

Pennsylvania Women Work (PA Women Work) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization with the mission of empowering economically disadvantaged individuals to achieve self-sufficiency. Founded in 1993, **PA Women Work has assisted over 50,000 people** across Pennsylvania in obtaining jobs that pay a family-sustaining wage and attending higher education. Our efforts have **saved the state over \$33 million in aid**, making us a vital program to the Commonwealth.

Our signature program is **New Choices, a series of successful career development classes** that teach unemployed individuals the skills they need to search for a job, ace an interview and retain employment that pays a family-sustaining wage. As one New Choices student, who is now a graphic designer, stated, **“New Choices accepts us all the way we are, and then we blossom. It changes our lives!”** The class focuses on the needs of single mothers, displaced homemakers and women in transition, though many men have attended the classes as well. Through the support of the New Choices classes, **over 85 percent of students have gone on to further education and careers that pay a family-sustaining wage.**

What truly makes New Choices unique is the individual attention and care that each participant is given by PA Women Work’s staff. PA Women Work’s staff meet with every student to enable them to create unique career goals and a step-by-step plan for achieving them. These plans take students’ interests and talents into account. The personalized attention that each participant receives builds up her self-esteem, giving her confidence in her own abilities and her job search. **New Choices graduates go on to become successful role models, entrepreneurs, and leaders in their communities.**

New Choices Success!



Angelina Mendez

Angelina Mendez is not the type to ask for help. She had a career, owned her own home, and had recently given birth to her first child. Her life took an unexpected turn, however, when she lost her job and the support of her son’s father. She became exhausted and overwhelmed, but wanted to retain her independence. As driven as they come, she wasn’t looking for hand-outs, only hands-on experience.

That’s when she discovered the New Choices program. With the skills the class taught her, as well as the encouragement of the staff and her classmates, she was able to enroll in school. She now works as a respiratory therapist and is continuing to advance toward a career in nursing. She supports herself and her son and continues to pursue her dreams.

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