

SPOTLIGHT on the Corridor

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Beyond an Opportunity, a Future

Archie Grant, a Ward 4 resident, is a natural comedian. He has a way of just talking about the realities of everyday life situations while using a comedic undertone that just tickles the funny bone of anyone who's listening. While on his life journey, Mr. Grant would find that he needed his humor to face the challenges that would shape the future outcome of his employment.

In April of 2014, Mr. Grant was a victim of crime and stabbed four times in the back. While trying to mend with a collapsed lung, he would soon find himself without a job. After a long recovery, Mr. Grant knew he had to rise up and find employment. His expertise had been in construction, and he specifically learned the trade of hanging drywall (preparing and finishing) from his father.



Archie Grant

When the opportunity came to divert from his usually course of hanging drywall with the new trade of being a carpenter, he approached it with humorous humility. "You can't stay the same all your life. I do not have the time to be sad. Reinventing oneself brings new challenges and excitement," stated Mr. Grant.

Maurice Stevens, of The Rising Above Program, facilitated the training opportunity for Mr. Grant to change professions because of the funding assistance from the Opportunity Corridor Project being administered by Ohio Means Jobs. Mr. Stevens assisted Mr. Grant with personal development and job readiness.

Then, through a collaborative partnership with ABC Construction, Mr. Grant received hands-on carpentry training using their on-site labs. With his new carpentry training, Mr. Grant has gained more insight and detail into the world of carpentry. "Instead of just being a drywall preparer and finisher, I know how to put up an actual wall," said Mr. Grant. When asked where does he see himself in one year, Mr. Grant stated, "I see myself with a couple extra dollars in my pockets and not worrying about the struggle."

This opportunity for Mr. Grant is not just for his personal growth but also for the growth of future generations. "Construction is a family oriented industry. I am thankful for this opportunity, so I can pass it down," said Mr. Grant. Even with his new career path, Mr. Grant would like to one day pursue his comedy in the local Cleveland circuits to just have some fun.

Maurice Stevens with the help of the Opportunity Corridor wants to give residents the opportunity to reinvent themselves just like Mr. Grant. For more stories like this one and to find out additional information about the Opportunity Corridor go to <http://opportunitycorridor.transportation.ohio.gov/>.

