

## **Willie Lynch Jr.**

CNA

Certified Nurse Training

KentuckianaWorks One-Stop Career Center

I was in restaurant management here in town – worked for different restaurants and different companies in town. I got to a point where I lost my job and started receiving unemployment. I went down to the Nia Center, down to the KentuckianaWorks One-Stop program and met a counselor named Kelly Few.

I always wanted to get in nursing. She said I scored high enough to be RN. I said, “Well let me start out for sure maybe at a lower level.” She said, “How about CNA?” I said, “Fine.” So, she got me set up to take the course at the American Red Cross, and I went down to American Red Cross and got my paperwork for KentuckianaWorks One-Stop program. And they allowed me to – well, they paid for my tuition. They helped me get my blood-pressure kit and stethoscope and some uniforms to wear. And, um, I started class like the next week.

About, I’d say, seven to eight days after that I just happened to go on the Internet, I went to KentuckianaWorks and from their link I went to the Masonic Homes, was having an opening for CNAs. Matter of fact, they was having a job fair the very next day. I said, “I’m there.” So, I took my exam, my results from my exam, and went out to the Masonic Homes and put in an application. Had an interview that day, did the drug test that same day. And, within two days they called me and said well we’d like to have you come to work for us as a CNA. I was like jumping for joy.

Now, my mortgage company knows I have a stable job, a job that’s needed. It feels better knowing that I’m getting up and going to work. You know, I can remember, I think it was the second day, my son goes, “Where you going Dad?” I said, “I’m going to work.” He said, “You got a job?” I said, “Yeah, I got a job!” So the whole atmosphere of the family changes, too.

First of all, don’t give up. Pray to God. And, get down to the Nia Center or the unemployment office and KentuckianaWorks One-Stop program ‘cause it really does work. If you apply yourself and have the will, it’s there. Believe me, they’re there to help you – and they don’t stop.