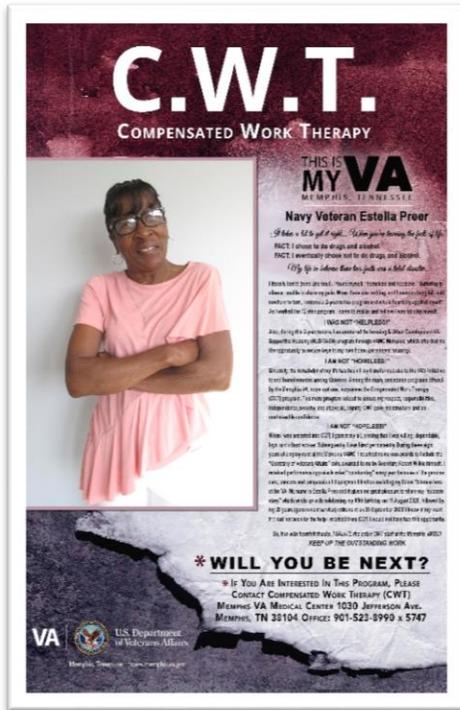


A MEMPHIS SUCCESS

ESTELLA PREER



ESTELLA PREER

I'm Estella Preer and this is my story.

It takes a lot to get it right....
When you're learning the facts of life.

FACT: I chose to do drugs and alcohol.
FACT: I eventually chose not to do drugs and alcohol.

My life in between these two facts was a total disaster. I literally lost it (mind and soul). I found myself, "homeless and hopeless." Suffering in silence, unable to share my pain. When there was nothing and I mean nothing left, with nowhere to turn, I entered a 2-year rehab program and whole heartedly applied myself.

As I worked the 12-step program, I came to realize and believe I was helping myself. I WAS NOT "HELPLESS!" Also, during this 2-year tenure, I encountered the housing & Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program through, VAMC Memphis, which afforded me the opportunity to secure keys to my own home (permanent housing). I AM NOT "HOMELESS!"



“This mere program helped to secure my respect, responsibilities, independence, security, and above all, dignity.”



Recovery is Working

Sincerely, the remainder of my life has been truly transformed due to the VA's initiative to end homelessness among Veterans. Among the many assistance programs offered by the Memphis VA, none, not one surpasses the Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) program. This mere program helped to secure my respect, responsibilities, independence, security, and above all, dignity. CWT gave me structure and an unshakeable confidence. I AM NOT "HOPELESS!"

Brenda Jackson, Memphis CWT Manager