

Audrey Owens



At 72 years old, Audrey Owens is proud of her age. Clad in fashionable high heels, a skirt and a jacket she presents much younger, but Audrey is so much more than that. Her spirit is a rare combination of youth and wisdom. In describing herself, Audrey said, “My life is all about bringing out the beauty that’s inside of people.” She did not know how that could help get her a job, but she *knew* that there was a job out there for her.

Audrey has had her share of both the good and bad in life. After an unhappy marriage she found her passion in helping others. At age 33, she began a career by ministering to others. Feeling that she needed a new start, she left New York and headed west for California. Once there, she conducted workshops for and counseled troubled individuals, from at risk youth to adult addicts. Audrey was there for anyone in need. She eked out a living doing what she loved and was grateful for all of it. As she built her career, she did what she does so well; concentrated on the good things in life. She did not concern herself with the idea of romance or marriage, but at the age of 45 she met Norman and her life changed. She had found her soul mate. So began the next chapter of Audrey’s life.

Audrey and Norman shared a strong love for one another. They also shared a passion for their ministry work. Together for 23 years, they worked as a team counseling and ministering to parishioners, prisoners, rehab patients, and others in need. Audrey and Norman lived a wonderful life that was filled with the happiness, love, faith and the fulfillment of doing what they loved. Unfortunately, in December 2007, her beloved Norman died. Audrey said, “As suddenly as he was there, Norman was gone.” In addition to all that Norman had been to Audrey, he was also her mentor. Audrey said, “When I lost him, I lost my way... but not my love for God or his people.” Still, Norman wasn’t there to counsel her on her next move.

She persevered. She stayed in their home until she could no longer afford it. She struggled to live without Norman. Audrey believed that despite how bad things got “it’s impossible to go forward when you hold on to the past.” So when she was offered a contract to minister to prisoners in another state she seized the opportunity and moved. Still, the contract, like most, had an ending. Audrey felt stuck again so she left sunny California and sought the solace of her family. First, she spent some time with her daughter and while there she realized the next step was to complete the circle and go home. Here she found support in her five siblings.

Ultimately, she needed a job. For most of her life, she helped those in need; now she was the one in need. Although she always worked, some of these obligations paid little or nothing. A few months later she signed up for the Career Readiness program at SCAP. Audrey said, “Until class, I did not realize all the transferable skills I have and how marketable I am in the real world.” Audrey knew who she was, and now with the help of SCAP, she learned how to use that information to get the kind of job she wanted.

Today Audrey is working for Ellis Medicine as a Community Health Worker. "Career Readiness helped me see that I am still valuable and have a lot to offer. I want to be a role model to other seniors." Audrey wants other seniors to know, "Don't give up. As long as you have breath, don't stop living. Don't take your experiences to the grave...share them!"

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