



Case Study

John Polkey and Laurie Loveridge

New Hope UK

“ I would like to thank Antonio Callisto personally for his one-to-one attention and inspirational manner. I would highly recommend this course to anyone wanting to gain, as the charity suggests, hope. ”

John Polkey
Self-employed

Project: Community Grants

Location: Cambridgeshire

Outcome: Self-employment

New Hope UK is a charity based in Peterborough. It runs the Alternative Path to Entrepreneurship and Skills Training (APEEST) to support people who are claiming benefits or are economically inactive. It helps these people improve their job prospects, either in starting up a business or getting back into work. New Hope UK has received a grant from the Community Grants project which is managed by TCHC and funded by the European Social Fund in the East of England.

John Polkey and Laurie Loveridge have both benefited from the course. After John was made redundant he struggled to find work. With bills mounting and two children to support, he decided to turn his skills into a business but he needed support to do this.

Laurie Loveridge had experienced sexual harassment in her previous job which had resulted in a loss of confidence. These experiences made her feel uncomfortable about working again. A lack of good qualifications was also hindering her job search.

John and Laurie learned a huge amount from the course, which took them through a range of topics in business and job seeking. They received lots of one-to-one support from the trainer, and benefited from being part of a group, from which they could share ideas.

John especially enjoyed learning about financial forecasting and book-keeping. The programme helped him develop his business acumen and confidence. As a result, John has managed to successfully set up his own business.

Consequently, Laurie was also able to develop her business knowledge. She learned a huge amount from the programme which helped her to think clearly about her goals and set her mind to them. This has not just improved her job prospects, but has made her happier too. She is now dedicating her time to making her business idea work, using her new-found knowledge and self-confidence.

The Community Grants project is a programme financed by the European Social Fund and the Skills Funding Agency.

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