

Dreams That Bloomed

The *Dreams That Bloomed* project was created to investigate the career paths of workers from the high tech sector, *after* they were laid off in the massive downsizing of the last several years. What we are seeking is success stories of those who have landed on their feet, either in the high tech field or in another field altogether. How did they do it? What inspired them? What assisted them?

We are looking for stories that send a message of hope, along with practical suggestions, to others who may be facing similar challenges.

Are you one of these people? Are you willing to share your story?

Our intent is to write a book that documents the experiences of about 20 high tech workers who have faced the challenge of being unemployed, of having their security disappear, and have managed to rebound in the face of adversity. Actually, we are looking for more than survival. We are looking for people who have turned the crisis into an opportunity to explore options and to create new work for themselves. Sharing your story will help other unemployed people find their way to a better life in the depths of despair. They will be able to identify with you because you have been where they are.

What is involved?

If you agree to participate, we would like to interview you about your experience. The kinds of questions we plan to ask are listed on the next page. The length of the interview will depend upon how much you have to say, but we expect that it will take less than an hour. We would like to make an audio tape of the interview so that we can quote you accurately, where that is appropriate. We will ask you to sign a simple release form that gives us permission to use your story in our book and/or other medium. If you prefer not to be identified in anything that we write or say, we will use a pseudonym and do our best to ensure that the story cannot be associated with you.

Who are we?

Anita Caputo has been through the high tech meltdown herself. She worked as a Financial Controller, a Customer Relationship Manager and a Project Manager in high tech. Now she works with people who are going through the unemployment challenge. She encourages the unemployed to reframe; to believe in themselves and their dreams; to become the kinds of success stories that we intend to recount.

Lee Wallace is a business coach, career counsellor and author, with over 25 years' experience in the career field. He has conducted his own study on the convoluted nature of people's career paths.

For further information, contact:

Anita Caputo at 613-720-4000 or anita@anitacaputo.com or

Lee Wallace at 613-244-3420 or leewallace@earthlink.net

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Here are the kinds of questions we ask in the interview:

1. For introduction purposes, tell us a little about your background - education and recent work experience.
2. In a nutshell, what was your situation when you were laid off?
3. How did you react at the time?
4. What challenges did you face?
5. Looking back, what was the worst part of the experience?
6. How did you deal with the challenges?
7. What kept you moving forward when the going was tough?
8. What inspired you?
9. What worked? What helped you the most? How?
10. What was the best part?
11. From your experience, what advice would you give to someone who gets laid off?

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If you would like to help us help others, please sign the Release below and return it to either Anita or Lee (see below), along with your contact information.

Release

By signing this release, I give Anita Caputo and Lee Wallace permission and the freedom to use the information I give them in any book, article, or presentation in any medium that results from this study. There will be no financial remuneration for the privilege of using your story.

Please check one of the following:

I wish to remain anonymous.

I give permission to reveal my identity.

(Signature)

(Date)

Address: _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

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