

American Dream Come True

“We started
from **zero.**”

Their world was turning upside down, and Lilia and her husband, John, feared for their daughters' futures.

Lilia and her family lived in Moldova, formerly part of the Soviet Union. When the USSR collapsed, Moldova became an independent country. While things were bad under Soviet rule, they got even worse after the collapse. Moldova became the poorest country in Europe with waves of poverty, political unrest and social turmoil devastating its people. Though Lilia and John were fortunate to have good jobs, the future for their daughters was uncertain.

In 2003, winning a Green Card lottery allowed them to move to the United States. Lilia left behind a career in education; John was head of training for the government's emergency department. But, of course, the careers they'd built in Moldova weren't easily transferable to life in America. “We started from zero,” Lilia said.

Fluency in several languages helped Lilia get a marketing job with a telephone company. It wasn't as rewarding as being an educator; still, Lilia was just happy to have a job. It was more difficult for John, as he had no English skills, connections through JVS helped him get a maintenance job at a local country club.

When the economy took a turn for the worse, their jobs disappeared. John took whatever odd jobs he could find. Now in her late 40s and not confident with her English, Lilia was scared. And for a year, the family struggled to make ends meet while she looked for work.

Thankfully, Lilia reconnected with the employment services at JVS. We helped her write a resume and gain interview skills. She updated her skills in our hands-on computer course. She approached her job search with new-found skills and confidence. Before long, JVS connected Lilia with a position as a laboratory manager. Today, she loves the work, her coworkers, and the benefits that help provide security for her family.

Most importantly, her daughters have grown into successful young women with bright futures and unlimited opportunities. Lilia's story reminds us that with perseverance and the right support, we're all capable of transforming hardships into happiness.



Lilia

3,443 job seekers

improved their employability and job search skills through seminars and workshops.

837 students

including at-risk teens and teens with disabilities, benefited from educational or career counseling, work experience and other career preparation activities.