

## El Barrio Success

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“In five years, I see myself as a supervisor at U.S. Cotton,” Ramon said with a smile. He came back to visit El Barrio where he attended the Job Readiness Job Search (JRJS) program. Ramon, like many others, was referred to the program by his Cuyahoga County Employment & Family Services case worker. He came to El Barrio in November of 2010 and began the JRJS program in Spanish.

Ramon, a young father of three, decided to make the most of the program offered at El Barrio from the day he arrived. “He was always very helpful and ready to learn new things. Ramon was very receptive to the information taught in class and utilized it successfully,” said the Bilingual Training Facilitator. In Job Readiness, Ramon worked on

creating a resume, practiced mock interviewing, and went over hard and soft skills with the class. “I came [to El Barrio] every day, and I learned a lot about interviews and what to do during them,” Ramon remembered. After completing this Job Readiness course, he moved into the Job Search portion of the program.

In Job Search, Ramon completed and submitted job applications on the internet and by fax. In January of 2011, he interviewed with U.S. Cotton and was hired as a Senior Machine Operator. Ramon is happy to have a job and said, “The best thing about going to work is having money for rent and my family, and not being depressed sitting at home doing nothing.”

Ramon is now able to support his children and stay on top of his bills. He believes that El Barrio helped him to gain the skills needed to get and stay employed. “I needed to get a job, and I heard good things [about El Barrio]. I came here and learned all that I needed to, and I got lucky—I got a job,” Ramon said. El Barrio’s staff members know that Ramon did not gain his employment by sheer luck, but by being a persistent job hunter and listening to the advice given to him.