



## Friends & Foundation *of the* Rochester Public Library

115 South Avenue ~ Rochester, NY 14604 ~ 585.428.8325 ~ ffrpl.org

***“By the grace of God I walked through the doors of the Library. Now I’m seeing light. Now I’m seeing a whole different picture.” -- Willie Campbell***



When you meet Willie Campbell, you understand why the Library is such an important community resource.

Willie is a single Dad with disabilities. He was struggling to support himself and his three children, and he knew that something needed to change.

**In 2022, when Willie came to the library, it was the first time he had used a computer.**

Now Willie is the proud owner of **Cleaning Enterprises, Inc.**, which serves commercial businesses. He has been able to pay himself as well as 2-3 people part-time. He has also been a subcontractor for 2 years. And he has glowing recommendations from his clients.

***“I never thought I would own my own business. It shows anything is possible.”***

Central Library’s **John Lovenheim Center for Technology and Innovation** provided Willie with **access to computers and computer instruction, free Internet, services** such as faxing and copying, and **space** for him to hold meetings and conduct interviews.

From the Technology Center, Willie was able to **complete all the coursework for an online class**, so he could get an expert certificate for LUV flooring, stone flooring, carpets, and decontamination of restrooms.

Library staff helped him set up his email and taught him how to use software to create customer contracts and invoices. Willie created a business plan working from his **“Library office,”** and then completed the application for his largest client.

At the Library, staff helped Willie **research** how to bid on projects, navigate workers’ compensation, find New York State’s requirements for certified payroll, obtain commercial insurance, and learn about his industry’s best practices. ***“Who else would let me come and sit and do all this?”***

***“Thank God for the Library. The Library was my #1 support. I’m competitive at my age. I’m still learning. It feels good. Four years ago, I was lost and outdated. If it wasn’t for the Technology Center, I wouldn’t be where I am today.”***