



## ZAHID

Zahid is a great example of how the New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC) at Greater Newark Conservancy can make a difference in someone's life. At age 27, Zahid is now a union member with six months on the job in his new career. Zahid has always had a job, but his "side" job got him into trouble which led him to serve 13½ months in prison. Upon release and return home, he decided he wanted to do better for his 2 sons, ages 10 and 1. One week after returning home, he came to the Conservancy and signed up for the NJRC orientation.

After an apprenticeship program with the Tile Layers Union Local 7, Zahid was hired by a tile company, where he now does tile work. Since starting work in July, Zahid has obtained his Tile Laying, Scaffolding, and OSHA certifications and has become a union member which has helped to increase his income significantly!

**What motivates him?** Zahid knows that his kids are "sponges", soaking up everything around them and he doesn't want his children to think that going to visit Daddy in prison is the norm. He wants them to be proud of him. Therefore he is committed to "breaking the cycle" and setting an example for his

children. While having the support of family and friends is important, Zahid realizes motivation must come from within...and he is very self-motivated!