

Renee Cicerone

Career and Computer Lab Success Story

A woman of immense strength, Renee Cicerone walks through the “ups and downs” of her life with perseverance and grace. Her journey over the past year has tested her beyond what most people believe is possible.

Yet, Ms. Cicerone has endured tremendous betrayal and pain, coming through it with resilience and renewed purpose.

Renee came into the Wellness Center’s computer room with two things on her mind: opera and the blues. All of her subsequent visits showed intense enthusiasm for these two musical genres. Since her mother was an opera singer, she grew up with magnificent arias in her home. Renee visited all the famous opera houses in Europe when she was in her twenties.

Renee’s ordeal began on a drive to the East Bay last fall. As she was going through an East Bay community, Renee was kidnapped by two people. After escaping, she was hospitalized and in a coma for ten days. Continuing her recovery at another facility, Renee underwent months of therapy before her perceptual awareness began to heal. To this day, many of her memories still feel like “dreams.”

Currently, Renee is reconstructing those devastating moments with help from the Wellness and Advocacy Center, County advocates, and friends. Renee shows undaunted determination moving forward in her life and beyond the tragic events of the past. She is working at a local Goodwill - Redwood Empire store. Her future plans include renewing her Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Counselor license.



By Natosi Johanna