

[PIANO PLAYING]

I grew up outside of Flint, Michigan. My grandfather worked for General Motors, my dad, two of my uncles, my cousin. So I figured that's what I would do someday. Going to work, I hear these rumors that plant's going to close. You're going to be transferred here. You're going to be transferred there. The uncertainty in the automotive industry at that time was pretty frightening.

I had a wife and two girls at home, and I didn't want to pick my family up and move just so I could do a job I didn't really like to begin with. But I didn't have anything to fall back on. They had filed bankruptcy at the plant I was at. And I called my wife, and I told her they're offering this buyout at work. They give you a sum of money, and you're done.

And she said, well, what do you do then? And I said, I don't really know. I punched out. I went to go home that night, and I started walking to my car in the parking lot. My feet felt like there were cinder blocks. And I turned around and went back in, and I accepted the buyout.

Once I left, I didn't know what other jobs were out there. It was terrifying. I come from a long line of nurses. My grandmother was a nurse. My mother is a nurse. My sister-in-law, two of my aunts are nurses. So I ended up going to nursing school.

Once I graduated, what I wanted to do was stay here in Flint and help the people of this community. My job as a factory worker really helped prepare me. And doing those same repetitive things really become important once you're a nurse. When somebody comes in with a certain medical condition, you do that same process every time.

Turns out that I was more qualified than I thought to become a nurse. When I get to work, I'm excited to see my co-workers but also excited to be challenged every day. I've learned that I really do like working with people, and I think people like working with me.

When I went in to interview for these jobs, they weren't sure whether it was going to be a good fit or not. And I said, give me a chance, I'll impress you. And I'm just so glad that they did.

I told you that you'd be a wonderful nurse. My wife calls it my do-over. And it's the best thing I've ever done, other than marrying my wife.

[PIANO PLAYING]

