

# **BOBBY**

*Found Hope in ServeHope*

The background features a large, stylized graphic element consisting of three nested, rounded blue shapes that resemble waves or hills. In the bottom right corner, there is a cluster of light blue circles of varying sizes, some solid and some outlined, suggesting a group of people.

**ServeHope**

**Serving to give Hope Since 2005**

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## About ServeHope

Founded in 2005, ServeHope started supporting Job Creation Programme for the Disadvantaged. More than 50% of the employees in ServeHope are People With Disabilities (PWDs).

The PWDs that ServeHope employs are mostly home-based with challenges in mobility. The company is committed to customise the job specifications to every PWD in the company. (E.g. 1 hour/day Jobs). The company focuses on the PWDs' strengths and complements their weaknesses with their fellow colleagues' strengths.

It is a joy to see them grow day-by-day . developing self-confidence, improving skills, and finally becoming a mentor to fellow colleagues (also PWDs).

This book will allow readers to understand the challenges and struggles that one of our employee . Bobby had to go through, and how he has not let his disability affect him, but rather motivate him through his life.



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## Bobby

My name is Bobby Wee, and I am 36 years old. My highest education attained was Diploma in Electrical Engineering at Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

Since I was in my teens, I suffered from a degenerative disease that left me wheelchair bound in my late 20s.

I am dependent on my mum . whom is now in her 70s, as my caregiver and am currently staying with my mum together with my older sister.

Some of my symptoms are coordination of my hands, tremor hands, slur speech, sensitive reflexes and more.

Unfortunately, there is no cure for this disease as yet. I am currently under long-term medications and have to make routine doctor/specialist visits in Tan Tock Seng Hospital.



## Knowing ServeHope

I did not know anything about ServeHope until Ms Grace Wong . also known as Auntie Grace (founder of ServeHope) called me for in for an interview in early 2009.

This is where I got to know about ServeHope, and that more than 50% of their employees are People with Disabilities. The company assigns different roles to the employees with disabilities depending on their knowledge, skills and abilities.

When I first started, I requested for data entry work because I had little knowledge of how to create websites and had no idea what html was.

Everything was foreign to me at first, but I was guided by one of my mentor, Auntie Grace.



Conducting training sessions

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## Life Before ServeHope

Due to my disabilities, it was a challenge looking for a job. It took me more than 5 years getting a job. I have tried finding jobs at sheltered agencies, organizations for the handicap and online job search portals.

I faced many challenges during my job hunt. It was important to take note of the location of the workplace and transport was a great concern to me.

For me, the only means of getting around via public transport is only by a cab, and it is not easy to get transport without relying on my caregiver. Hailing a cab is not easy for abled person, not to mention PWDs (People With Disabilities).

Even though it was frustrating at times, I did not give up and tried my best.



ServeHope's Road show in 2008

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## After Joining ServeHope

After many years in ServeHope, I gained knowledge and exposure to web related programs (eg. Wordpress, Youtube, SBI). My jobscope expanded from doing data entry to different platforms of marketing (eg. Facebook, Twitter, Constant Contact, Tele, Email and Mobile).

I have learned a lot of valuable things during my time in ServeHope.

Like the famous Chinese Proverb by Lao Tzu, %Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.+ I have learned to appreciate things and people around me. One must have the correct attitude when it comes to work. Now, I am a mentor to other colleagues in ServeHope.

Through ServeHope, I hope to learn and explore more skills, with these, I can cover a wider range of jobs so that I can contribute more to the company.

## A message to all PWDs

**To all PWDs currently working,** adopt a positive working attitude. Learn from mistakes. Plant a seed, it may take a long time to harvest+but it is the process of learning that is valuable.

Build strong relations with your bosses, colleagues and even your clients. As long as you put in effort, you will see results. Continue to improve on your skills.

**To all PWDs who are still finding a job,** do not give up trying. Grab every opportunity and cherish it. Gain or accumulate your working experience even though it may be a part time job. Find your strength during the process and hardships will be paid off eventually.