

# VETERANS

## A New Beginning



“ The Power Up! program equipped me with the knowledge and skills that I needed to make a career change. Because of United Way of Long Island and Bank of America, I have a pathway to opportunities, self-sufficiency and the American Dream.”

Matt served 4.5 years in the U.S. Air Force as an Airman First Class and worked as an Airfield Operations Technician. He found it very difficult to find a career post-military like the one he had in uniform. After 4 years of odd jobs to keep afloat, Matt found a job in the hospitality industry.

Matt worked there for 7 years and throughout the pandemic. “I saw a lot to make me realize that I was not where I should be. It wasn’t what I had worked and trained for.”

While looking into other career options, Matt discovered United Way of Long Island’s Power Up! program. He signed up immediately, thrilled at the chance to apply his military experience. Through Power Up! Matt learned the benefits of renewable energy and how to install clean heating and cooling technologies, high-efficiency HVAC, heat pumps, solar panels, and EV Charging. He also created a resume and built a strong network in the renewable energy industry.

With resources from Power Up! Matt put his networking skills into action. He interviewed with a global energy consultant and management company and is now a Residential Program Energy Inspector with PSEG Long Island, ensuring the installation of renewable energy systems.

For more information visit: [UnitedWayLI.org/PowerUp](https://UnitedWayLI.org/PowerUp)

