

# The Laborers' Union Helping To Change Lives For The Better

Everyone likes stories of people who work through adversity and beat the odds. Local 151 member Manoucheca “Manny” Gabriel is one of those people who is on the winning path and continues to fight every day.

A native of Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, Mrs. Gabriel came to this country at the age of 14, moving to Miami with her mother and gaining employment at the age of 16. She was in search of a better life for herself and her family which includes two brothers and two sisters who still reside in Haiti. It wasn't until two years ago that Mrs. Gabriel moved north to Massachusetts and began working security jobs while living with a friend.

It was soon thereafter, in July 2014, that she began working on the New Balance Headquarters project in Cambridge and officially entered the ranks of Laborers' Local 151. She currently is in the apprenticeship program with another year to go before becoming an official journey-person. She is a part of the over 70 Laborers who are currently at work at the New Balance project, which will also eventually include a practice facility for the Boston Bruins and a sports complex. The entire project is scheduled to be completed by the year 2020.

“Being a member of the Laborers' Union has given me benefits that I could never dream of before. I now have health insurance and a good wage, and I am working to buy my own house so that I can have all of my family together with me. It is my dream, and I am so lucky to have this job, to work for this great company, and to be a member of Local 151. It has given me the life I wanted and, I am looking forward to more success in the future. I am also proud to be working with all of my wonderful union brothers and sisters like our Business Manager Allen Boyer and Chris Canal, our foreman on the job. They have been so helpful to me on this job and I thank them for their friendship and leadership,” said Mrs. Gabriel.

What is also amazing about this young woman is her ability to achieve under such adversity at a young age in a new land. While in Miami, she attended and graduated from Florida Memorial University in Miami. She currently lives in Dorchester and recently got married.

“Manny is an amazing young woman who has been through and seen so much in her young life. John Moriarty Associates, the construction company here at the New Balance Complex loves her and her work ethic is second to none. She has a smile on her face, does her work well, and we are so proud to have her on the team and as a part of our apprenticeship program,” said Allen Boyer, Local 151 Business Manager.

Manoucheca “Manny” Gabriel of Local 151.

