

## Project Hope – Rise and Shine Breakfast



The 6th Annual Rise & Shine Breakfast on April 28th to benefit the families at Project Hope was truly an event not to be missed. It was wonderful to be amongst friends and supporters in the glorious harbor setting at the Boston Harbor Hotel with gorgeous weather. The room seemed to float on the good will of our friends.

The breakfast included a welcome from Mayor Thomas Menino and an inspirational message from Sr. Margaret Leonard, Executive Director of Project Hope. As the program unfolded, a video showed how women in our Speakers Bureau are learning to find their voices, and guests heard how bravely the women at Project Hope struggle to change their family's circumstances.

Our Keynote Speaker, Georgie McKenzie, captured the audience by sharing her journey out of unemployment. After 18 years working as a Benefits Technician, Georgie was suddenly laid off. With a daughter in college and a young niece to care for, she began the arduous process of maneuvering through the unemployment system. While at the unemployment office, she found a flyer for Project Hope's Employer Partnerships program and from that day on her new life took shape. She entered the Partners Career and Workforce Development Program and with the support of the Project Hope staff she was able to get a job within the healthcare industry. She now has a great career at Massachusetts General Hospital and is continuing her education at Bunker Hill Community College. Her daughter graduated in May 2009 with a Bachelors Degree in Psychology from Curry College and her niece is an honors student in High School.

At the breakfast everyone was commissioned to be an Ambassador of Project Hope. By spreading the word about Project Hope's mission, we will expand our circle of support. For more information about Project Hope, please visit our website at [www.prohope.org](http://www.prohope.org) .