



## Petra Wilson

Petra was born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica, where the importance of education and working hard was instilled in her and her siblings. Her family migrated to the United States to reunite with her uncle and grandmother. The family settled in Brooklyn, NY. She joined the US Army Reserves a mere two years after relocating and became an Operating Room Specialist. She realized quickly that a career in healthcare and intense physical training was not ideal for her.

She earned a BA from Syracuse University, a MS from the New School University and an MBA from Strayer University. She is a certified Project Management Professional, a Certified Manager of Quality/Organizational Excellence from ASQ and Six Sigma Green Belt trained. She has been involved in Toastmasters International for the past nine years, where she has served in several leadership roles within her club, area and district. She has achieved Toastmaster's highest honor of being a Distinguished Toastmaster.

Petra started out with Bell Atlantic, which became Verizon, and worked there for seven years. It was during this period that she discovered the Project Management discipline and its benefits. She relocated to Charlotte, NC in 2004 and joined Wachovia Bank. She is now a Business

Support Manager within International Business Solutions and Controls, which provides Petra with the opportunity to practice process improvement while seeking ways to mitigate risk.

Volunteering is one of her passions, especially when she gets the opportunity to work with people who may have been forgotten by society. She welcomes the opportunity to learn from those she assists and them learning from her. She has volunteered with many organizations, including but not limited to: Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Workforce Development Centers and Crisis Centers.

She enjoys watching sports with her husband and relaxing at home. She loves reading and believes that there are learning opportunities in every book and situation. She loves learning about God's love. Central to her faith is the importance of showing God's love and her life reflecting her relationship with God. Removing the stigma of HIV/AIDS and mental illnesses are very important to her.