

# Postcards from Iraq

## Finding your true calling

By Cherita Williams  
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I'm a humanitarian. I like helping people.

I had some concerns about deploying to a war zone but a couple of my co-workers in Philadelphia (Jenifer Bordelon and Lane Gary) who both have served in Iraq assured me I'd have no regrets. Jenifer said, "If you go, you'll find it's the best thing you could do." She was right.

I'm part of a great team, a family of professionals who are all working hard to get this job done. I'm making memories every day, interacting with Iraqis and helping them build a better life for their children and grandchildren. We're awarding contracts to renovate schools, pave roads, rebuild electric substations, upgrade sewer pump stations and water networks, canal cleaning, and opening new health clinics.

Iraqi contractors, despite the dangers, continue to step forward eager to help improve their communities. Their courage is remarkable. This is the best assignment I've had in 20 years government service and I'm enjoying every minute of it.

I've had great support from my co-workers stateside and my family. My son Jerome was very understanding and said, "Mom, if this is something you really want to do, I'm behind you."

It's an awesome assignment and there's no holding me back now ... this is my true calling. We're making a difference here and I'm grateful to be able to say I was part of this important moment in Iraq's history.

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