



**Thank you for taking the time to complete the feature questions below.**



**Please, tell us about *Hope Job Bank Project* and the work that you do? (How did it come about? Whose idea was it? When was it established? What different aspects are there to it?)**

**Hope Job Bank:**

It all started with a dream in 2012.

Ash Xyle was diagnosed with Paranoid Schizophrenia and struggled with it since 2009. After breaking through major symptoms it seemed like an obvious choice to create possibilities for others, who are affected by mental illness, to help them get back to life.

There are many like Ash who find themselves in a difficult spot of not being able to work, given the

challenges posed by mental illness.

Thus began a dream to create a platform where people affected with mental illness could come together, use their skills, create possibilities and empower each other.... maybe teach skills too.

There was a dream.... but it did not get its spark till Ash met Kerry Martin online in 2013!! Kerry Martin had already founded Hope Xchange Non Profit where Bipolars support other Bipolars. She developed several programs like Time Bank and B2B etc.

It was very close to what Ash dreamt of and thus they got together and added Hope Job Bank to Hope Xchange programs. Title 'Hope Job Bank' was given by Kerry Martin.... a bank where people deposited their skills and Hope Xchange Team would think and pull up their resources to create a work environment for all who enrolled.

Why should people who are capable, functional and recovering well be denied the opportunity to work? Why do they always need to carry that sword on their neck "What if people know I am mentally ill?"

Something needs to be created so people can work, feel useful and valuable... without the worry of stigma attached to Mental illness.

So the Hope Xchange Team: Kerry Martin, Jen Silverwood and Ash Xyle began the journey of creating a possibility. We believe it is possible to create work opportunities using a hybrid solution – IT technology and Brick n Mortar businesses.

We are currently in the process of evaluating the best workable model which can be launched as a pilot in Indonesia. Once tried and tested... this model could be launched in various parts of the world as we continue to build relations with talented people and



entrepreneurs who have a taste for social good. We are hoping to engage with like minded people who can join hands and help making this dream come to reality.

**What has been some of the personal highlights of your time with *Hope Job Bank Project* and the work that you do?**

I think the best part about Hope Job Bank has been the large number of people personally reaching out to Ash asking if they could be a part of it. Even business owners have come forward and offered to be a part of this project ...they would be happy to hire people who become part of Hope Job Bank.

There is no doubt... there is a need for such a platform.

We see the value of it and patiently working towards its launch.

**A bit about you; where were you born and raised?**

I like to think of myself as a system thinker. I am always trying to find solutions to problems that touch me deeply.

I was born and raised in Mumbai, India. But I stay in Jakarta, Indonesia now with wife and children. Parenting is a big part of my life right now. Besides managing the challenges presented by Paranoid Schizophrenia.

**What education course did you follow & where did life take you after this?**

Received basic education in Commerce. But all the learnings really came from jobs at hand. Having performed with many bands as a rock bass guitarist... Sound engineering just fell into my laps after college. Later I enrolled into 8th Grade Keyboard lessons offered by Trinity College, London and became a Music teacher in one of the schools in Mumbai.

That led to me being invited to one of the J. Krishnamurthi Schools in India. I got involved with Child Psychology here and gained deep insight on 'learning behavior in individuals and organizations.'

I then, moved to Indonesia after marriage... and worked as an Audio Visual System designer for a local company... leading to me being a part of Consultancy team for the same company in India. That taught me a lot about Project management skills, Design co-ordination with architects and interior designers etc.

Soon, I found myself working for an upcoming high class resort as Assistant Project Manager / Design Co-ordinator etc. In India.

Moved to Indonesia again as parenting life was around the corner.

Got invited to be a part of leading Retail company in Indonesia. Assisted with communications with International Consultants, Project administration etc.

BAM!!! Schizophrenia put me to sleep for few years suddenly.



As I crawled my way up..... I wrote a short story about my experiences and observations with managing Paranoid Schizophrenia ... hoping to release this short book at the end of August 2014. It will be called Soul Scanner.

I also started a radio blog called Soulful Living With Schizophrenia and it was welcomed so well by people all around the world.

As I became more functional and able to carry myself well again.... I got invited to work as a Business Development Manager for a Software Development Company. It taught me about the current trends in IT technology and opened up a venue for me to use my social skills with confidence again.

I resigned in November 2013.... and joined Hope Xchange as a Team Member.

Now it is all about making dreams come true..... ☺

### **Would you like to share how you got involved in Mental Health?**

I explored Mental illness ... Paranoid Schizophrenia in particular.... as I am diagnosed with it myself. With every step I take towards recovery.... it becomes a choiceless choice to share my insights with others who may benefit.

### **What projects are you currently working on?**

I am currently working with Hope Xchange Team to integrate all the programs and bring it to the world as a hybrid solution – IT technology + Brick / Mortar Business -- designed to empower people who find themselves recovering well from Mental illness but unemployed because of Stigma.

### **Do you have any 'coping strategies' that you use?**

I owe my recovery to awareness of my Inner voice. It taught me that not all voices come from Paranoid Schizophrenia. By trusting it day after day... it rose me out of the maze of Schizophrenic voices.

### **What does the future hold for you, personally?**

All I know is that my future will be created by creativity and compassion which is well founded under the guidance of my inner voice. The shape, color and magnitude of this future.... we will have to wait and see ☺

### **And for Hope Job Bank Project?**

I see many many people inspired to work and feel useful .... taking on big challenges together. It will be a slow process..... but will become the way of the world for sure. No more will there be people ending their life just because they see no Hope or Future.



**PsyCope 'Coping with Psychosis'**  
Feature of the Month – June 2014  
Ash Xyle, Hope Job Bank Project

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That's what Hope Xchange is out to change.... with its integrated program which will include Time Bank and Hope Job Bank.

**Favourite Quote?**

*"Perspective – Use it or lose it"*

- *Richard Bach*

**Web link:**

<http://www.youtube.com/user/hopexchangenonprofit>

**Hope Job Bank Video**

<http://youtu.be/TIG3UPZVrBc>