About George Akinkuoye

Belying his early background — a BS in architecture from Nigeria's University of Ife, and a degree in construction cost engineering in the U.S.—George's life in America (he has been a citizen for two decades) fits the very model of immigrant success.

But it hasn't been easy. The architectural firm he took a job with when he first arrived in the U.S., in 1987, went out of business only months after hiring him. "Just when I thought I had achieved my desired career, the door closed on me." And the recession that followed his first job out of engineering school cast him once again adrift among the unemployed.

With no openings in either engineering or architecture at the time (1993), George was forced to take what was available, a job as a nursing assistant,

"Just in order to feed my family." But healthcare soon became much more than simply a way to survive. He literally fell in love with nursing because, "it's much more gratifying than working with inanimate objects."

The timing of George's new career start couldn't have been better—it came at the beginning of the healthcare services boom that continues today. He rose to management in no time, and five years ago launched Medicol Incorporated, a home healthcare staffing agency, and then Medical

Community Services, a group adult foster care service. Just last year he gained his PhD in Nursing Practice from Regis College (Weston, MA) and

Co-founded Collaborative Mental Health Services (Framingham/Natick, MA) with Robert Ferrell, MD.

But George's life isn't all business. "Composing songs still refreshes and centers me after a long day's work." Witness the new song that you can listen to on the enclosed USB drive.