

INTERSECTIONS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR CROSSROADS JOBS

WELCOME TO OUR THIRD EDITION – ANOTHER BUSY YEAR BEGINS!

A NEW YEAR'S POSSIBILITIES

BY CAROL SMITH, DIRECTOR

Imagine finding yourself without a job, unable to cover basic expenses, watching your savings dwindle...



This is a position some of us have faced, a position that many of our applicants face as they come to Crossroads Jobs. A good first step in moving beyond precarious circumstances is to talk with someone – not always an easy thing to do,

particularly when living in a place like Loudoun County. **CJ** provides the structure and space for unemployed individuals to share their stories with a job counselor. During the one-on-one interview the job counselor asks questions about employment and, more importantly, does a lot of listening. Sometimes the stories are complete, often they are complicated. Our job is to take the pieces and help construct a path, a picture, a way forward. We love our work!

2018 MISSION UPDATE

Crossroads Jobs has to date 19 placements in jobs that include teaching assistants, cooks, housekeepers, drivers, ramp service agents and receptionists. Our English and Spanish orientation groups average seven new applicants each orientation week.

THANKS TO YOU

We are grateful to the Leesburg Daybreak Rotary for their continued support of Crossroads Jobs. A heartfelt thanks to the Cloudbreak Foundation for their generous support. Crossroads Jobs is a recipient of a Community Development Block Grant through HUD. And of course, we love all our private donors.

KUDOS TO OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

Thanks to these Loudoun area companies who recently employed **CJ** candidates:

- **Lidl** – Ashburn
- **Home Depot** – Leesburg
- **Chuck E Cheese** – Sterling
- **Swissport** – Dulles

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VOLUNTEERS

Brenda has been volunteering at **CJ** as our English-language Orientation Facilitator for more than three and a half years. She is the very first person an applicant meets during orientation week and her background in HR, coupled with her kind, straightforward manner is invaluable to the success of our program. In Brenda's own words:

"I enjoy sharing my HR knowledge and experience to help others pursue employment opportunities. These past few years volunteering to conduct Orientation have been rewarding. It is extremely important that the initial impression of the organization is a good one. My hope is that we continue to make a difference in the community."



RECENT GRADUATE SUCCESSES

Angel is a quiet young adult, who lives with his mother, another **CJ** applicant. He has only been able to find part-time jobs since he graduated from high school. His mother brought him to the Spanish Orientation at **CJ**. He was very shy and did not talk much but agreed to continue with the program. He wanted to find a stable job but did not know how. His dream is to become more independent and buy his own car to get to and from work. His job counselor at **CJ** helped him realize that having a decent paying full-time job in the right location would help him achieve his goals. With resume and online application assistance from his job counselor, he applied to Lidl, a new local grocery store. He was called for an interview that same week and got the job. He is very thankful for the program.

Emily was referred to **CJ** by her therapist. As a child, she was diagnosed with high functioning autism, causing some difficulties while in school. She left high school before graduating but completed her GED soon after. Before coming to **CJ**, Emily had worked a maximum of eight hours each week as a caregiver. In order to be self-sufficient, she needed a

permanent job with enough hours to supplement her Social Security Disability Insurance payments. Unsure of where and how to start the job search, she came to **CJ**, and after working closely with her job counselor, was hired at a nearby senior living community.

Preston came to us because the hours of his current job had been drastically cut. He needed a job that could guarantee more hours. His job counselor contacted a local home improvement store and arranged an interview. Within a week, Preston started training and will have the hours he needs!



Call us today at (703) 771-4112 or email findajob@crossroadsjobs.org.

Crossroads Jobs is a Loudoun County nonprofit, offering individualized job search and placement services to unemployed and underemployed area residents

Crossroads Jobs

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