

INTERSECTIONS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR CROSSROADS JOBS

WELCOME TO OUR EIGHTH EDITION – HALF YEAR UPDATE!

THE YEAR SO FAR...

BY CAROL SMITH, DIRECTOR

We are at the halfway mark for the year, always a good time to reflect and take stock of our people and program. In early May, we were honored to receive a grant from **100WomenStrong!**



We are also thrilled beyond words for the support during the **GiveChoose** online giving campaign. Not only did we exceed our goal, but we were able to win two prizes in the “small organization” category thanks to the generosity of **Kaiser Permanente,**

Backflow Technologies, Wells Fargo and McCandlish Lillard. A special thanks to **Allison and Rick Carnathan** and our **Board of Directors** for their match pledge during the campaign. We were also one of three nonprofits awarded a Platinum Award from the **Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties** for “significant internal growth and operational improvements since beginning as an all-volunteer startup organization in 2012.” As one person stated: “Crossroads Jobs is like “the little engine that could ...!” We are A-Okay with that sentiment!

LUNCH & LEARN @ CROSSROADS JOBS

L&L@CJ, launched in January of 2019 is a resounding success. To date we have covered topics ranging from interviewing skills to mindfulness & stress relief to creating a winning resume. Next month we will be partnering with Wells Fargo to offer a 3-month series titled 8 Rules of Thumb to Financial Health, which will be held at the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce. Wells Fargo will lend their talent and expertise.

2019 MISSION UPDATE

We are currently at 45 placements for 2019, exceeding last year’s placements for the first two quarters. Although unemployment is low in Loudoun County, many of our applicants struggle with barriers to employment – a disability, lack of transportation, housing insecurity, age, or criminal history. 61% of the applicants who completed our program in the past 3 months face a significant barrier to employment. At the same time, employers in Loudoun struggle to fill many positions, so we are always working hard to build bridges between applicants and employers.

KUDOS TO OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

- **Amazon** – Sterling
- **Battery Warehouse** - Leesburg
- **Lansdowne Resort** - Leesburg
- **PetSmart** – Leesburg
- **Tractor Supply** - Leesburg

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VOLUNTEERS

This month we are grateful for two new volunteers, **Mark Norman** and **Augusto Aguilera**. Mark will be assisting applicants with resumes and online applications for jobs. Augusto, bilingual in English and Spanish, will be facilitating orientation sessions in Spanish every other Monday. Volunteers like Mark and Augusto cover important aspects of our program. A win-win for everyone!

RECENT GRADUATE SUCCESSES

Elisabeth came to us in desperate need of a job. She and her two daughters were going through a very difficult domestic abuse situation. They were transferred from a shelter in Woodstock to the Leesburg shelter. Not having a stable place to live, not knowing anyone in the area and not knowing where to start, she came to us for help. With the help of her job counselor, she came up with a plan. She applied and qualified for day care assistance, provided detailed work history to create a winning resume and built up her confidence by practicing interviewing questions. Her job counselor also helped with online applications. She went on two interviews within a week and was hired by a local cleaning company. Because she had fled domestic abuse, she now needed clothing, so an appointment was set up with Women Giving Back and her job counselor accompanied her to find appropriate work clothes. Now that she has a stable job, her next goal is to find a decent place to live with her two daughters.

A mother and adult daughter, **Deb and Erin**, both born and raised in Loudoun County moved back from Florida recently. Deb had a long work history but had lost her job and decided to head "home." Erin, a quiet young woman, had cared for children and pets for two different families, but had not worked in a business environment. After completing our program, both immediately applied online for jobs recommended by their job counselor. Deb was called right away

for an interview and was hired by Walmart, a job she felt suited her skills and experience. Erin wanted a job working with animals, so her job counselor contacted a local PetSmart that happened to be actively hiring for dog washers. Erin was ecstatic because the position also offered training in dog grooming, her dream job, but being shy and lacking in confidence, she requested some extra interviewing practice prior to the interview. Her job counselor also suggested using a Hair Cuttery coupon donated by a generous supporter of CJ, and with her newly acquired interviewing skills and a lovely new hairstyle, she aced the interview and is happily working! The next step is finding a long-term housing solution.



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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