

INTERSECTIONS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR CROSSROADS JOBS

WISHING EVERYONE A SAFE AND WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON

REFLECTIONS

BY CAROL SMITH, DIRECTOR

To say this has been a challenging year would be quite the understatement, but we have persevered and learned throughout 2020, carrying with us new skills and abilities. We have added virtual and digital offerings for applicants, staff, and our board, improving communication overall. We strengthened our relationships with partner organizations to ensure comprehensive services for our applicants. And most importantly, we reflected on what is most important for our world: peace, health, and helping those in need.

In August we opened a second location in Sterling Park and in November we welcomed a second bilingual Job Counselor, Catherine Harris, to our team. We are thrilled to have Catherine working with us!

We currently have three job counselors working out of our Leesburg location and two out of our Sterling location, though we rotate staff and do as much work as possible remotely to ensure the health and safety of everyone.

We look forward to a peaceful, healthy 2021 and will continue to assist those in need of employment. Wishing you and yours a safe and wonderful holiday season!

"We acquire the strength we have overcome"

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

KUDOS TO OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

- Hunters Woods at Trail Edge – Reston
- Roy Rogers - Leesburg
- Club Demo Services (CDS) – Leesburg & Sterling
- My VA Agency – Sterling
- Good Shepherd Alliance, Hope's Treasures – Sterling
- Giant Food – Leesburg
- Lowers Risk Group – Purcellville

THANKS TO THE CROSSROADS BOARD

It is with immense gratitude and infinite well wishes that we say good-bye to three board members at the close of 2020. **Wes Trochlil**, board member for four years and Board Chair for the past two, has guided us to a position of greater financial stability and programmatic successes. We are eternally thankful for his organizational skills, positive outlook, and steadfast support of Crossroads Jobs. We are also very grateful to **Wayne Nielsen** who has been our communications guru and the creative force behind this newsletter as well as our annual report. **Emily Edmonds** was instrumental in forging corporate relationships, an important direction that benefitted from her expertise and guidance. Best wishes and thanks to each of you. You will be missed!

We are thrilled and grateful to welcome three new board members for 2021: Deborah Dale, our new Board Chair, along with Thor Kritsky and Melissa Heifetz. Welcome and we look forward to your ideas and vision for Crossroads Jobs in 2021!

2020 MISSION UPDATE & GRATITUDE

We are currently at 60 permanent placements for 2020 and hope to see a few more before the end of the year! With so many businesses closing and various industries tightening their belts, we are proud of this number and particularly proud of the individuals out there working to keep us all safe and healthy.

We are incredibly grateful to all who have supported us throughout the pandemic. A special thanks to **Toth Financial** for their generous support of our program. We also offer heartfelt thanks to The **Cloudbreak Foundation** for their generous grant to CJ and to **Leesburg Junction**, a fellow nonprofit located in Leesburg, offering convenient and affordable work and event space.

RECENT GRADUATE SUCCESSES

Stephanie came to us over a year ago seeking help. In her home country, she held a mid-level managerial position, but with limited English she was realistic about her job search and let her job counselor, Lisa, know that she desperately needed to help support her family. Lisa arranged an interview right away for a food industry job, and she was hired and able to start work immediately. After the busy summer season, however, her hours were cut, and she needed something else. Stephanie had shared with Lisa that she enjoyed working with children, so that information, combined with her warm personality, prompted Lisa to discuss a job opening as a bus attendant with Loudoun County Public Schools. Stephanie applied, successfully completed the LCPS interview and started online training. She is thrilled with the new opportunity!



When **Ana** came to CJ she seemed tired and overwhelmed. She was trying to make ends meet with two jobs, one during the day, the other overnight. Ana had no computer skills and had never filled out an application online. Our focus is to provide personalized attention to each individual applicant, so her job counselor, Yanci, helped her create a resume, assisted with online applications, and arranged job interviews. One company hired her on the spot for a fulltime day

position, with a good salary and full benefits. We noticed an immediate change in Ana: she is very happy and cheerful now because she is able to support her family and spend time with them!

Update for **Denis** featured in our fall newsletter: We are happy to report that Denis has been working at Healthworks for Northern Virginia for more than three months there and loves his job! He has kept in close contact with his job counselor, Yanci, who has been a source of encouragement and guidance. Congratulations to Denis. Keep up the good work!!

Lawkies interviewed with his job counselor, Betsy, in the midst of the pandemic. Soon after, she arranged an interview with Tractor Supply and was hired in August. When Betsy checked in with the manager at TS, she was pleased to hear that Lawkies is becoming a stellar employee, working in several departments, including feed, freight, and customer service. He also trained as a cashier and is doing well. We are so proud of this young man who overcame many obstacles to succeed!!



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

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