

# INTERSECTIONS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR CROSSROADS JOBS



SPRING IS HERE!



## WELCOMING 2021

BY CAROL SMITH, DIRECTOR

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped us persevere throughout 2020 and beyond. The one-year mark of the pandemic has passed and we have weathered the storm thanks to donors, board members, partner organizations, friends, family, applicants and local businesses. A special thank you goes to the amazing team of job counselors at Crossroads Jobs: **Yanci Portillo, Lisa Martin, Betsy Coffey-Chaudet and Catherine Harris**. All are professionals with heart and empathy for individuals who need some assistance as they navigate the job search. During a staff meeting each of them was asked to reflect on what it was like working during the pandemic. Some of their thoughts:

“Crossroads Jobs did not miss a beat. We “opened” remotely the end of March 2020. We all contacted our respective applicants to see how they were faring and what type of help we could offer. We divided up our accounts list and contacted employers to find out who was still hiring. In April, we pivoted to remote services, helping applicants fill out applications, develop resumes, hone interviewing skills, and look for work.” ~ Betsy

“Despite the fact that 2020 presented all of us with challenges I am grateful that CJ was able to continue to service the community and keep our 'virtual doors open'. Purchasing cell phones allowed us to stay in contact with our applicants and employers. As we ease back to in-person aspects of our program, I am hopeful and excited to be able to meet with applicants again. I love working at CJ and am looking forward to 2021 job placements.” ~ Lisa



## KUDOS TO OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

- LCPS – Ashburn
- Burger King – Sterling
- Mod Pizza – Ashburn
- Healthworks for Northern Virginia – Leesburg
- Marriott – Sterling
- Aero Transfer & Logistics – Dulles
- VA Medical Reserve Corps – Loudoun County

## MISSION UPDATE

We were thrilled and honored to be selected as the **Loudoun Chamber's 2020 Small Business Awards Nonprofit of the Year!** The Chamber deserves infinite kudos for creating a very special virtual event. We are very grateful.



Welcome to our newest Board Member, Puneet Gupta, who brings to our board extensive experience in lean management and agile coaching.

We have placed 16 applicants in permanent positions and are particularly proud of the fact that 4 are “move up” placements, meaning their new job pays at or above a living wage and offers promise for advancement.

As staff and many Loudoun residents receive vaccines, we are planning to add in-person orientations in English and Spanish. Our last face-to-face orientation took place in March 2020, so we look forward to providing this for our applicants! We are working out location details to ensure and maintain appropriate physical distancing. Stay tuned!

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Thank you to all who donated to Crossroads Jobs during **GiveChoose** on March 16 and to the **Community Foundation for Loudoun & Northern Fauquier Counties** for organizing this amazing event. The total amount raised for local nonprofits was over \$824K!

The generosity of so many during GiveChoose helped us exceed our \$8000 goal and win a \$500 “most donors” prize during a particular time slot. A special thanks to our CJ Board who offered a \$2000 match for the day!

We are grateful to **Community Lutheran Church** in Sterling for choosing Crossroads Jobs as the beneficiary of their January/February “Noisy Offering.” Thank you!

And thanks to **Ketterman's Jewelers** for selecting Crossroads Jobs to be the recipient of their **March First Fruits** program!! We are grateful for the ongoing support!

## RECENT GRADUATE SUCCESSES

**Melissa:** After graduating from high school, Melissa worked part time at a Sprint Store, but the store closed a few months later. She was referred to a job at Chesterbrook Academy and later found another job at Karter School, which she hoped would give her the opportunity to grow, but soon learned that there was no room for advancement. She felt stuck and was not able to make ends meet. Melissa found Crossroads Jobs and, with the help of her job counselors, realized childcare was not the career path she wanted to pursue. After exploring several options, she was hired at Healthworks. Her new job provides her with a good work schedule and a salary that enables her to support herself. Melissa loves her job!

[www.crossroadsjobs.org](http://www.crossroadsjobs.org)



**Cindy:** “I tried hard to look for work for over a year but was not able to find it on my own. Luckily, I went to Crossroads Jobs. They have been so humane and so good to be able to help me, especially Ms. Catherine. She is very compassionate and managed to find me a job. She has been such a kind person. She was able to send my applications and get me an interview. I feel very grateful and very blessed because she has put everything on her part so that I can find a job. Before I got to know Crossroads Jobs, I was looking for any work that I could find. I even worked cleaning houses even though I have my teaching degree. I never used my degree because when I tried to send my resume to places, they never called me back. Crossroads Jobs helped me find a job in a school, so I am able to use my skills and experience. That is why I feel very happy and very grateful to this company and especially to Catherine, who has been very friendly and the bridge to finding the job that I was longing for.”

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

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