

INTERSECTIONS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR CROSSROADS JOBS

WELCOME TO OUR ELEVENTH EDITION – SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES AHEAD!

COVID-19'S SERVICE IMPACT

BY CAROL SMITH, DIRECTOR

Our first newsletter of 2020 finds us all in the midst of an unprecedented historical event. We hope this update finds you safe and in good health. Now more than ever, we want you to know what we are doing at Crossroads Jobs to prepare for the inevitable increase in unemployment once we are on the other side of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Due to recommendations from health officials, Crossroads Jobs closed its office on March 12 and has been operating remotely ever since. Our four Job Counselors, Yanci, Lisa, Johana and Betsy, along with Director/Job Counselor, Carol, have been reaching out to applicants, employers and partner organizations via email to provide ongoing job placement assistance and support. We have heard from several applicants who have been laid off or furloughed and are certain that when we get through this crisis, there will be many more in need of our help. We are also reaching out to businesses that are still hiring, making sure this information is shared with anyone in need. Several applicants are currently working in “essential” positions.

On April 3, we held our first virtual orientation via Google Hangouts, so three new applicants learned about our program from the safety of their home. Applicants then have a virtual interview with one of our five job counselors to prepare for the job search. In order to provide the necessary equipment – computers and cell phones – for our Job Counselors to work from home, we are actively pursuing funding opportunities that have emerged due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are very grateful for the end-of-year donations. Please consider giving to Crossroads Jobs to ensure that each and every person seeking work in the near future can access and receive the individualized attention provided by our program.

We are also thankful for HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), which enables us to draw from our grant award by submitting reimbursement requests. We will keep you updated on our accomplishments throughout the year! www.crossroadsjobs.org

2020 MISSION UPDATE

To date we have placed fifteen job seekers in permanent employment, including jobs as an usher, a grocery store manager, a patient safety associate, a school nutritionist and a warehouse associate. One applicant was part of our Move Up program which elevated her from a position earning \$14/hour to a living wage job at \$18/hour!

Other good news includes the launch of our Mentoring Program, designed to provide job placement assistance and post-placement support for applicants with disabilities. **Betsy Coffey-Chaudet**, a retired LCPS special education teacher, who had worked for the LCPS CAST program, was hired as a Job Counselor in early January to lend her extensive experience to the Mentoring Program. We welcome Betsy!

We are grateful for the support we received for our initiative from the Arc of Loudoun's Shocktober We Scare Because We Care Grants Program and from the Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties Loudoun Impact Fund Donors.

KUDOS TO OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

We are thankful for the following community partners:

- **Food Lion** – Sterling
- **LCPS** – Loudoun County
- **Metropolitan Healthcare Services** – Herndon
- **Cobb Theatres** – Leesburg
- **A Farm Less Ordinary** – Leesburg

RECENT GRADUATE SUCCESSES



Ethan started working at A Farm Less Ordinary on March 25 at the Leesburg area location after completing an application and interview. He likes being outdoors, and has worked for Legacy Farms in the past so came to the job with farming experience! During the interview, Ethan noted some of his strengths were being punctual and caring about his performance. He remarked that he "loved to weed!"

We are proud of Ethan and grateful to A Farm Less Ordinary!



Irma was working as a senior companion when she came to CJ a year ago looking for a better opportunity. She needed a better schedule and shorter commute to be able to spend time with her two children. She also longed for a job in her field. In her home country, El Salvador, she was an Ob/Gyn doctor's assistant, helping in many areas including delivering babies. Her previous experience and background in combination with her proficiency in English and Spanish made her an excellent candidate for a job opening at Healthworks for Northern VA. She was hired as a nursing assistant but with her capability, background and experience she was immediately transferred to work as an assistant to an Ob/Gyn Doctor. Irma is one of CJ's greatest ambassadors! After a year, she continues to work diligently and now, in this current health crisis, she is considered emergency personnel and continues to go to work every day, using Personal Protective Equipment to assist with urgent patients and Virtual Telehealth appointments. We are very proud of Irma and hope to continue helping the community by connecting capable applicants with marketplace jobs!



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

1 East Market Street
Leesburg, Virginia 20176