



JOB TRAINING THAT WORKS

1200 O'Brien Drive
Menlo Park, CA 94025
650.330.6429 www.JobTrainworks.org

JobTrain is committed to helping those who are most in need succeed. Our purpose is to change the lives of people in our community through education, attitude and job skills training, career placement, youth development, and child development.

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July 2008



FORMERLY OICW The Works

The Quarterly Newsletter of JobTrain

SASSY Successes

JobTrain's School After School for Successful Youth program, or SASSY, is changing the community by addressing the astounding drop-out rate for local high school students and by implementing a new health initiative that teaches students better practices for healthy living.

Measuring the drop-out rate is challenging -- and while statistics vary with their source, East Palo Alto's rate of students who do not graduate high school is staggering from any perspective. SASSY's goal is to combat this trend by providing high school students with the opportunity to earn up to twelve elective credits per semester through SASSY participation. Additionally, SASSY is currently reaching down to pre-high school students in order to get them started on the right path. Credits earned by these students are forwarded to their high schools, giving them an early jump on earning the required number of credits for graduation. This puts them on a path that emphasizes the importance of completing classes and credits on time.

SASSY is also making its new health initiative a priority. JobTrain has brought on staff a new health educator from the East Palo Alto community, Khabral Muhammad. Additionally, SASSY provides hiking groups, capoeira classes, healthy snacks, and is involved both with "Get Fit EPA" and with the Farmer's Market that recently opened in East Palo Alto. Further, in conjunction with other groups, SASSY is in the 3rd year of a 5-year Community Challenge Grant. The grant provides funding to conduct seminars on healthy choices, and the many topics to which this applies, at the Sequoia Union High School District. Finally, projects with Planned Parenthood Golden Gate and Sequoia Healthcare District are designed to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

These health initiatives, as well as program offerings for at-risk youth, are just a few examples of changes and developments being made to benefit our young participants. To learn more about SASSY, please contact Allan Johnson at 650.330.6420 or ajohnson@JobTrainworks.org.

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Director's Corner: *Goodbye MiMe's Café*

Goodbyes are hard - especially when they mean losing something or someone you love. For the past 13 years, JobTrain has operated our Culinary Arts Training Program at MiMe's Café in Redwood City. The training course is known

for its innovation and spectacular results, for providing a practical platform from which even the most challenged students launch successful careers. The café is famous for its green chili soup, fresh salads, creative pastas and wood-fired pizzas - but most especially, for its spirit. Lunch at MiMe's Café means a personal and friendly greeting from General Manager Betty Basile, attentive table service from servers-in-training, and passionate recognition of his students' cooking creations by Executive Chef Instructor Adam Weiner. Culinary trainees radiate pride as they work the grill, make salads and pastas, and man the pizza station. It's easy to catch the spirit and enthusiasm of MiMe's Café. It is very hard to say goodbye.

MiMe's was started in 1995 as an innovative nonprofit training experiment in a vacant See's candy shop at 2050 Broadway in Redwood City. Philanthropist Tom Ford, Management Guru Tom Peters, the City of Redwood City, and See's Candies were among its early funders. See's has continued to pay the rent for MiMe's to this day. (The café is named for MiMe Huggins, the late wife of former See's CEO Chuck Huggins.)

Why goodbye? MiMe's Café will close to the public in late August. The award-winning Culinary Arts program, with Chef Adam still at the helm, will move to JobTrain's main facility in Menlo Park. MiMe's Café has a motto: great food, great service, great cause. The most important element - great cause - will continue. Our decision to close the café as a training venue was unavoidable in today's world of high food and fuel prices, a faltering economy, and decreased availability of government funding for job training.

Goodbye, MiMe's Café. Thank you, customers and supporters. It's been a good run.

Sharon Williams, Executive Director

FUNDRAISING NEWS

A Website for the Future

JobTrain is constantly working to communicate with our donors, employers, and existing and potential clients in the most accessible and informative way. With this in mind, we are launching our new website this month. The site name and location will remain the same, but we will unveil a brand new design and layout, as well as updated content. The new design will make the site easier to navigate and simpler to contribute online in a paperless and efficient way.

The site is broken down by category - general information, clients, employers, volunteers, and donors. While the structure of the website will be altered significantly, the content will be updated and embellished, especially within the donors category. This segment will be broken down into an explanation of JobTrain's various funds and campaigns; corporate and foundation giving; planned giving (and the various paths for donating in this manner); and the many avenues for individual giving, which include donating via our website.

Our new website launches July 11th, and we invite you to check out all that it has to offer! www.JobTrainworks.org



Breakfast of Champions Recap



Student Speaker Cheney St. James sits with Ronnie Lott at the Breakfast Head Table.

This year's Breakfast of Champions, held on May 9th, was a resounding success. The event raised nearly \$480,000 to be used in full toward JobTrain programs and students.

San Mateo County Supervisor, Rose Jacobs Gibson, received the Role Model Award, while two JobTrain graduates were presented with the Paul M. Cook Award. The student speaker delivered a moving and articulate account of his life and the positive and unforgettable difference that JobTrain has made. Various celebrities were in attendance, including Steve Young and Ronnie Lott, who delivered a heartfelt tribute to Bill Walsh.



The San Jose Peace Chorale open the event with "Bambelela".

Newsletter Staff:

Kate Bryan
Writer and Editor

Marc Santuccio
Design and Layout

JobTrain is a 501c3 nonprofit service provider, established in 1965. Programs and services are provided to our low-income students at no cost, thanks to generous support from individual, corporate, and foundation donors, as well as government grants.

JobTrain's 16th Annual Mike Montgomery Golf Classic will take place on July 14th at Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club with the dinner, reception and auction immediately following play. Sponsors include: KPMG, Cooley Godward LLP, DLA Piper LLP, Accel Partners, Galileo Planning Group, R.R. Donnelley Financial, Symyx Technologies, CNET Networks, Morgan Stanley, Comerica, and New Resource Bank.

If you're interested in sponsoring or playing golf, or would like to attend the dinner event only, please contact Holly Hanson at 650.330.6419 or hhanson@JobTrainworks.org.

Volunteers Needed! *Computer Literacy Instructor*

We are looking for 1 or 2 volunteers to teach computer basics to students with limited computer experience. Lessons include: starting and shutting down a computer; how to use various Windows programs; simple word processing; Internet Explorer; performing an online job search; and how to set up and use a free email account.

Class begins Wednesday, July 30, 2008, and is scheduled for 2 hours per day for 10 consecutive weekdays. Each class cycle follows this schedule, and we welcome volunteers able to teach one full cycle, several cycles, or those available on a more long-term basis. The class is presently offered from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. However, class times are flexible and may be held anytime between 8:30am and 3:00pm. For more information please contact Holly Hanson at 650.330.6419 or hhanson@JobTrainworks.org.

Calendar of Events:

July 14, 2008: JobTrain Mike Montgomery Golf Classic
Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club, Menlo Park
Starts at Noon

October 1, 2008: JobTrain Open House
JobTrain Campus, Menlo Park
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

For more information about sponsoring, attending, or volunteering for any of these events, please contact Holly Hanson at 650.330.6419 or hhanson@JobTrainworks.org.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Job Fair Excitement

In addition to a number of new partnerships with a diverse group of employers, JobTrain is expanding the number and type of job opportunities available to our students by hosting job fairs. These events allow our students to meet and network with potential employers, and at the same time demonstrate to these organizations their eagerness and qualifications.

On May 28, 2008, JobTrain hosted a job and resource fair for over 300 jobseekers and nearly 60 employers. A variety of industries were represented, including healthcare companies, community organizations and agencies, small businesses, and larger corporations from various fields. Among the employers were Kaiser Permanente, New York Life Insurance, the Palo Alto VA Hospital, Cañada College, Aeroteck, the Tech Museum of Innovation, FedEx, Safeway, SkyWest Airlines, and PG&E.

Students networked and learned about employers while taking advantage of the opportunity to apply and interview for positions. The job fair was a huge success, reflected in positive responses from jobseekers and employers alike; based on questionnaires, every attending employer would participate next year. To learn more about job fairs or corporate relations at JobTrain, please contact Jasmine Baluyot at 650.330.6430 or jbaluyot@JobTrainworks.org.



A PG&E representative speaks with a jobseeker at the Job Fair.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

Project Build Rebuilds Lives

JobTrain's Project Build prepares students for careers in a wide range of building trades; and Project Build is known for high success rates with students who face serious barriers to success. Basically, the vocational course teaches workplace safety, building theory and hands-on construction skills. Project Build students are also trained in hazardous waste removal and receive state and federal HAZMAT certification. JobTrain staff members work closely with local unions to establish apprenticeship opportunities and to assure quality job placement. A very important part of the curriculum is Math for Construction. Project Build Instructor Chuck Bragg, who was a business major in college and whose father was a CPA, claims, "You need more math skills to be a carpenter than an accountant." Chuck is a licensed general contractor who earned his stripes as a carpenter.

But what is Project Build's "secret sauce?" Many students credit their life-turnaround to their intensive life skills training and no-nonsense counseling. Their life skills instructor and counselor is Doug Fort, an East Palo Alto native who dramatically changed his own life, and who connects with his students on a real level.

Life skills training is about personal transition and long-term success. It begins with self-evaluation, including personality tests that provide students with insight into their own strengths and weaknesses and a better understanding of other personality types in the classroom. Students learn best practices for communicating based on their own characteristics as well as those of their classmates. These insights translate directly into better teamwork in the workplace. Doug Fort explains, "If you know who you are and what you like and don't like, you can better know what you can and can't do well in the future."

Life skills training helps students break old self-defeating habits. Students learn to avoid behaviors and situations that could undermine their efforts to start new lives as responsible and self-sufficient individuals. They also learn to create a resume and cover letter, compile a reference list, learn networking and interviewing skills, understand and operate the internet, and create a personal budget.

Project Build graduates have solid job skills, a healthy understanding of themselves and new-found confidence in their potential. It's no wonder they are among the most successful JobTrain graduates!

JobTrain Receives Family-Friendly Award

JobTrain received the "Family Friendly Employer" award at the Fatherhood Collaborative of San Mateo County's annual "Dads Count" event on May 19, 2008. The award and event celebrated groups that are concerned with fathers and families, and who promote awareness and support for men who make their roles as fathers, grandfathers and mentors for children a priority. In receiving this award, JobTrain was recognized for its ability to encourage men to embrace their roles as fathers, and for supporting a balance between work and family.

Did You Know?

JobTrain's Child Development Center hired a new instructor, Jeffrey Shurtleff, for their class of 24 students. The children have recently gone on field trips to the San Francisco Zoo and the Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose, and had a visit from the fire department as well. The children currently enrolled will graduate on July 11, 2008.

Spring Graduation

JobTrain held its spring graduation on April 24, 2008 for its 192 eligible students. Since graduation, students have been placed in jobs with various organizations. Companies include: Fry's Electronics, Solar City, REC Solar, Four Seasons Hotel, Home Depot, Safeway, UPS, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Valley Medical Center, and Whole Foods.



An excited graduate receives her certificate of achievement.

The graduation highlighted our students' successes and featured two student speakers. The first speaker was a young woman from our Culinary Arts program, and the second was a young man from Project Build. Both spoke of the value added to their lives by JobTrain. Each gave genuine and personal accounts of where their lives were before they began their training classes, and where they hope to be in the future after receiving training, life skills, and confidence from JobTrain.



Donor Honor Roll

With your help, JobTrain is changing the lives of people through training and employment. The following is a list of donors who contributed \$500 or more between February 16, 2008 & May 31, 2008.*

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**We have made every effort to list donors accurately. If you have any questions or concerns about this list, please contact Kate Bryan at 650.330.6499 or kbryan@JobTrainworks.org.*