Dreams Delayed While Hope Remains

The effects of the pandemic have been difficult for everyone, but particularly for those re-entering society. Years of hard work and an abundance of hope were put on hold when shelter-in-place was enacted. Below is a first-hand account from Holly, a JobTrain counselor at Maple Street Correctional Center of the impact COVID-19 crisis has had on a client’s re-entry into the community.

“Nate has been in and out of custody for most of his adult life. We had met several times to talk about making changes and developed a plan for success after release from custody. After a few attempts to return to life successfully on his own, he returned to jail once again. We met again to revisit the challenges he faced and noticed a change in his demeanor. He shared that he was tired and needed JobTrain’s help. But this time in custody would be different, he was selected to participate in JobTrain’s in custody programs at the Maple Street Correctional Center. The change was dramatic. He attended the Culinary Arts class and the Career Readiness courses and he progressed well through the classes. Together, we developed a new re-entry plan for success.

When he returned to society this time, he contacted me to follow up with his re-entry plan. Some of his goals were to sign up for classes at JobTrain, find housing and a job. Little did we know, he would face a much bigger challenge this time. The day he attended Orientation at JobTrain, was the day we were closing due to the COVID-19 outbreak. I knew we didn’t have much time until other services would be limited due to the emergency unfolding in the Bay Area. I arranged to secure him a bed at the homeless shelter and took him to get necessities and clothing, dropping him off at the shelter. Despite the challenging climate we all face right now, he is currently working as an essential employee, staying at the shelter and saving money. He is working with the shelter to secure permanent housing and looking forward to taking JobTrain’s Building Maintenance class and reuniting with his family when life is back to normal.”

Thanks to the generosity of JobTrain supporters, we are able to be here for clients like Nate before, during and post shelter-in-place.
BARRIE HATHAWAY, PRESIDENT & CEO’s MESSAGE

In the face of this unprecedented crisis, all of us have been confronted with overwhelming challenges, opportunities and calls to action. It has been my honor to witness the power of our community as we step up to keep each other safe and strong. More than ever before, I am aware of the unique role the nonprofit sector plays to respond quickly and locally to crisis. And, I am reminded that philanthropy is an essential force powering innovation and rapid response within our sector.

As JobTrain has pivoted its programs and resources to provide meaningful support to our community, our donors have been by our side. You have increased giving to power our programs, responded quickly to enable ongoing operations without pause, and offered your support in every way you can.

One shining example of this is JobTrain’s Crisis Relief Fund. JobTrain saw the need, and created and deployed a program and staff to implement. You are providing gifts to power the fund, and it’s working. Dan is one of the people who we helped. After graduating from JobTrain’s Culinary Arts program, Dan excelled in his new career, got married and was well on his way. Unfortunately, he lost his job and was unable to pay for his family’s most basic needs. We helped! In response, Dan said, “JobTrain to the rescue again. Second time you have saved me. JobTrain has left an indelible mark on my heart and in my life. You guys are amazing and are doing God’s work. Thank you.”

Thank you for all the ways you are by our side, stepping up. Thank you for supporting our Breakfast of Champions, despite having to cancel the event. Thank you for your encouraging words. We are far from done, but we are confident we will be successful because of you.

This is how JobTrain is stepping up...

Since shelter-in-place JobTrain has created more opportunities to better serve the community including offering guidance to benefits, providing financial assistance to JobTrain clients, creating online classes, and increasing job search tools.

This is our community

“My family and I are very grateful and appreciate JobTrain for helping us financially during this unfortunate time. Due to COVID-19 my husband was placed on furlough. He is the primary provider for our family. JobTrain’s funds has helped us pay for our utilities. Thank you very much!! We feel very blessed. Laura, Crisis Relief Fund Recipient”
BRIDGE 2020 AWARDEES

On February 27, 2020, JobTrain and Rise Together/BARHII held the fourth annual BRIDGE Awards to honor six exemplary companies who are doing right by their employees by putting diversity and inclusiveness at the forefront of their corporate strategies.

The event was hosted by LinkedIn at the San Francisco headquarters. Over two hundred corporate representatives attended the Awards ceremony where employers were acknowledged for their hiring practices that centered around inclusiveness, diversity and belonging.

Special guest speakers included Orlando White, Community Development Manager at LinkedIn, and Alex Holt, the Global Head of Telecoms & Media for KPMG.

Congratulations to 2020 BRIDGE Award winners: BPR Hotels, Family First Award; Flagship Culinary Services, Home Grown Award; Slack, Innovation Award; Bank of America, Tried & True Award; and the two winners of Small Business Award, Big House Beans and CSBio.

In Memory of Clarence (Bud) J. Ferrari, Jr.

The OICW/JobTrain family is sad to hear of the recent passing of Clarence J. Ferrari, Jr. At OICW/JobTrain, he was affectionately known as Bud Ferrari. Bud joined the board of directors in 2004 and gave more than 10 years of faithful service to the organization’s mission. Bud’s legacy of caring and generosity helped to ensure JobTrain can continue to provide a hand up to those most in need. As we remember Bud, JobTrain will continue the good fight. We also want to thank those who have honored Bud with gifts to JobTrain.
After months of partnership building and strategic planning, we are excited to announce that JobTrain is expanding programs to Santa Clara County through three new partnerships. In January 2020 we launched a new, high impact partnership with Destination Home, working with their network of homelessness and housing services providers to deliver rapid employment services to recently housed adults. Also, through partnership with Goodwill of Silicon Valley we will bring our high-demand Medical Assistant career training program to San Jose. And if that weren’t enough, we are also working with the Santa Clara County Office of Supportive Housing to launch our Culinary Arts career training program in Mountain View.

Both of our career training programs were scheduled to launch in March, but with the shelter-in-place order we have postponed the start-up. We anticipate both will be up and running in July. Combined, these three programs will serve nearly 200 people per year and, more importantly, give us the opportunity to extend the significant impact of some of our most successful programs to more talented, hard-working, low income adults and families in the Bay Area. Watch us soar.

STEVE SCHMIDBAUER, COO RETIRES

JobTrain’s COO, Steve Schmidbauer retired in March 2020. Steve began his career in nonprofits as a social services worker at FamiliesFirst, now part of Uplift Family Services. He went on to supervise Intensive Family Preservation services in Contra Costa and Solano Counties, and then to manage Community-Based Services. He was then tapped to be Executive Director of Child Family Health International.

JobTrain recruited Steve in 2014 as its first Chief Operating Officer (COO). In 2017, Schmidbauer served as Interim President and CEO during a search that brought in JobTrain’s current President and CEO, Barrie Hathaway. “I have been lucky to work with the most talented leaders I have ever met in Nora Sobolov and Barrie. It has been my pleasure to serve with them both.” Schmidbauer said.

Hathaway says, “Steve embodies the spirit of JobTrain, in that he combines the compassion and expertise that are the hallmarks of our organization. Steve has been instrumental in improving programming for our clients, and in developing new services in Santa Clara County. In his tenure at JobTrain he has overseen the growth of our work and has led in the development of our staff. It has been a pleasure to have Steve as part of the JobTrain family.”

Hayam Demian, JobTrain’s Director of Instruction and Career Development, is promoted to COO. “We have been intentional about succession planning and we are happy to have the talent internally to take on these rich and challenging roles,” Hathaway said. An illustration of how Steve touched the community is shown in the many donations that have been made to JobTrain in honor of his retirement. We thank Steve for all that he has done for JobTrain and the community.