



PATHWAYS

Spring 2024 Newsletter



JobTrain has given me the opportunity to help myself and to have a fulfilling career in healthcare. I feel much more financially secure. I now know that I will have enough to pay my bills and to be able to start saving up.

Gabriel, Medical Assistant Graduate

Above, Graduates from the Graduation Ceremony Classes of 2020-2023



Goodwill Mission Partner Award



Culinary Graduate with Chef Bertha



IT Class in action

PRESIDENT & CEO MESSAGE



Dear JobTrain Community;

I am proud to share that JobTrain is continuing to deliver on our promise of offering a pathway to prosperity for the communities we serve. Our goals are ambitious. We are expanding our reach, expanding our service offerings, adding new career pathways, and building new programs and exciting partnerships to help our graduates achieve upward career mobility, all while maintaining best in class results. As we near the end of fiscal year 2024, we are on track to report a record number of

people served this year. With the launch of our newest Career Center in Half Moon Bay, JobTrain has established 7 place-based centers in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties' underserved communities that create easy access to our many programs.

Most importantly, these programs are working. Clients are receiving essential supportive services as they prepare for jobs and careers. Job placements are strong, average wages are the highest ever, enrollments are breaking records, and upward mobility programming is gaining momentum.

How is all this possible? Hard work. Creative innovation. Skilled staff. And a profoundly committed community of stakeholders, partners, and supporters. Thank you for being part of our village, and for your dedication to our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barrie R. Hathaway". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Barrie R. Hathaway



Welcome New Board Members

JobTrain is honored to announce two new additions to its Board of Directors: Emma Gordon, Ph.D., and Siddharth Mundra. Emma is Senior Director, Learning and Talent Development for Stanford's Residential & Dining Enterprises and HR consultant for Stanford's School of Medicine. Siddharth is Assistant Treasurer at Google and is responsible for managing Google's risk management and investment activities. (Pictured left bottom: Siddharth Mundra, Misti Sangani, Suzanne Markoe Hayes, Rita Grant.)

WORKFORCE AND HOUSING WORKING TOGETHER



Sometimes, one small step is all it takes to make a giant leap in life. That was the case for Maria, a grocery store bagger at Safeway. One day, her manager noticed her speaking English, and translating for other staff. Impressed by her initiative and potential, Maria's manager promoted her and today she happily runs the store's meat department. Maria credits her recent success to the ESL program she enrolled in through a partnership between JobTrain and MidPen Housing.

The JobTrain/MidPen Housing partnership serves underemployed individuals in need of affordable housing by focusing on skills that can enable their economic mobility. Courses include learning to speak English, computer basics and technology, and getting a GED. Participants earn a stipend while they continue to learn and progress through each discipline.

This Learn-and-Earn model promotes trust and encourages professional development and participation. It's a pathway to economic mobility.

After completing ESL level 1, Maria enrolled in the next course for level 2 to improve her English. Her instructor was impressed to see Maria's dedication to improving her English and for going above and beyond to help other students in the class. One of those students was Mireya who works two jobs as a house cleaner and gardener. Mireya used to just say "Okay" without understanding. Since learning to speak English, she has impressed her program coordinator by assisting with administrative tasks including helping to fill out surveys in English for clients. Mireya is now more comfortable helping her kids with school assignments.

Above photo: Maria smiling with pride in her new role after being promoted to run the store's meat department.

Below left photo: Mireya smiling for the camera at her gardening job.

Below right photo: Maria taking an order.



WHAT'S NEW



Assisting the North Fair Oaks Community

JobTrain's North Fair Oaks Career Center has quickly embedded itself in the community. Recently, a client who only spoke Spanish with irregular house cleaning jobs sought the help of the Center's employment specialists. Her husband was diagnosed with cancer and unable to work, which meant she had to become the sole breadwinner and find more stable employment. Staff sprang into action helping her create a resume, canvass the job market, and prepare for interview questions. Determination and commitment paid off. She secured a full-time janitorial job with the County of San Mateo, earning a living wage with health benefits and consistent hours. The Career Center staff proudly serves its community.



I.T. Alumni Meet Up

Diploma Faleta (pictured left) speaks to JobTrain alumni of the I.T. Support and Services training program. Diploma successfully completed his I.T. Support and Services training at JobTrain in the fall of 2019 and took on contract jobs for two years. Diploma said, "You have to learn as much as you can with every opportunity that comes your way. Don't be afraid to ask questions. And you must never give up." Diploma's commitment, hard work, and positive attitude eventually earned him a permanent position as an employee at Nvidia. A participant commented, "This event was super helpful and gave me courage! I am connected to resources."



Visiting our Employer Partner, SamTrans

JobTrain's North San Mateo County Career Center team, visited the San Mateo County Transit District's (SamTrans) North Base maintenance and training center. The tour familiarized JobTrain with SamTrans operations and provided information about current initiatives and promising job opportunities that provide economic mobility. Employment Specialists will share this information with colleagues at other career centers and job-seeking clients who meet qualifications to apply for bus operator and utility worker positions. Pictured with a new SamTrans electric bus: Employment Specialists Arlyn Gorriceta, Kathy Castro, Corrin Avchin, Regional Director Emily Beach, SamTrans Talent Manager Julia Horiuchi, and Employer Engagement Liaison Terrie Crenshaw.

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