



THOMASVILLE JOBLINK LINK LETTER



WELCOME TO ISSUE 14

1ST QUARTER, 2009

“Hope Lives” — A Community Event

The event on March 28, 2009 shows what can happen when the community comes together. “Hope Lives” proved to be a powerful inspiration to those feeling the impacts of job loss and a depressed economy. **Rich Fork Baptist Church** conceived, planned and led a well orchestrated event that touched hundreds of families. This generous event sponsored by the church included important partnerships with community agencies such as DSS, Family Services, Angel Food Ministries, etc., as well as Davidson County Community College. DCCC was able to provide information on their programs as well as offer haircuts, manicures and massages. JobLink was privileged to participate and provide needed information to dislocated workers on re-training opportunities, workshops and other programs tailored to meet their needs. This is a true example of a “faith based partnership” that worked! The following are comments from JobLink team member Janet Money:

“JobLink was invited to share in an awesome event on March 28, 2009, at Rich Fork Baptist Church in Thomasville. The event was planned to help encourage local people who have been affected by the economy that are struggling through a recession and job losses to find hope, help and friendly encouragement. The church wanted to share the message that “Hope Lives” regardless of the situation we are going through. Their theme to the community was “believing that something good can come from something bad”. It was truly exhibited that day.”

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Rich Fork Baptist Church hosted the “Hope Lives” event on March 28, 2009



JobLink team member, Janet Money, assists dislocated workers with information on services at the “Hope Lives” event.



JobLink has a 99% Positive Customer Service Rating for the first quarter of 2009

Comments from the surveys completed during the first quarter include:

"This was more helpful than any other places I've been."

"High quality services."

"More room for people at JobLink & ESC to wait and move about."

"JobLink is very much needed- Thanks."

"Was very satisfied with helpful staff."

Seen Around The Link This Quarter

Right: Jackie Gilmore-Davis assists youth who visit our JobLink

Below: Richard Michaels teaches job search skills.



Right: The JobLink Team hears from Mike Massey, Job-Link Disability Program Navigator, as he provides information and training to staff on serving customers who have disabilities.



Project Re-entry will begin the 13th session at the Davidson Correctional Facility on April 8, 2009. JobLink team members Jackie Gilmore-Davis, DavidsonWorks Job Developer and Richard Michaels, VR Business Relations Representative, will join Project Re-entry this session as guest presenters.

Project Re-entry Davidson County is celebrating 5 job placements for the month of March, 2009, reports JobLink team member Ineta Cherry, Employment Specialist with Project Re-entry.

This program is making an impact in our community.



Success Story (First Quarter – 2009)

During the current difficult economic times in our county and throughout the United States, the unemployed have had to utilize every viable means to secure gainful employment.

I had worked with “Kara” when she was employed at a staffing agency. She had listed jobs with the ESC and JobLink for her agency. She instructed applicants on completing applications fully and accurately, often using the internet to list and promote available positions. Equipped with eight years of human resources experience and a GED, she found herself unemployed in early September, 2008. Immediately, she came into the JobLink and ESC to seek work and apply for unemployment benefits.

While interviewing and assessing her qualifications, we discussed her need for an updated resume, possible further training and the necessity of using her job searching time efficiently. She decided not to pursue further training at that time. Our job postings were listed on the internet and further information about the job and its application process were available through contact with agency staff.

Wait times to see ESC staff in person were often long and phone lines were frequently tied up. I suggested she contact me directly by email, as I have suggested to numerous claimants in the past. This way accurate and timely information could be conveyed so more time could be spent on applying for suitable positions. She agreed.

Her resume was critiqued and updated to reflect her strongest skills. We covered those interviewing skills that are important to the potential employer. It was very different for her being on the other side of the desk. Armed with confidence and a couple referrals to some current positions; she departed.

For five months she would regularly contact me by email with jobs she had found on the ESC website. One of the more difficult things for me to do was emailing her back to tell her that she was not qualified for some of the positions. Her job searching skills improved and soon she was finding positions she was excited about and qualified to do.

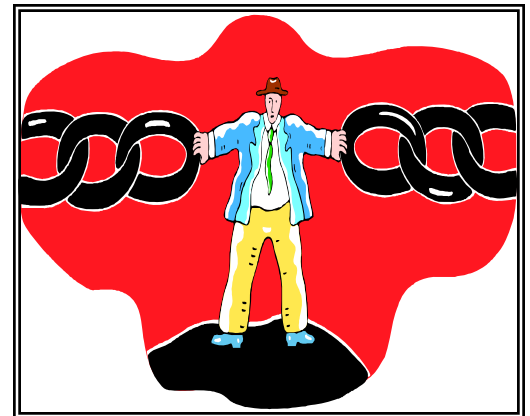
Some people we find relax their job searching efforts after a few months. They are receiving UI benefits and know they will probably get an extension. Jobs are missed, skills are lost and often apathy sets in causing a lowered self esteem that is reflected in job interviews. Kara never showed this. She learned during her job search to adjust, improve her job searching skills and keep her positive approach to each individual position she applied.

Twenty six referrals and over five months of searching had passed when she emailed for one last time. She declared, *“I just wanted to let you know that the job with [a manufacturing company] in Asheboro that you referred me for... I started working for them on Monday 2/23/09. Thanks for your help with my employment search.”* An email I see all too infrequently. She began work as an office manager assistant that required computer skills to input customer orders, payroll knowledge and customer service skills.

People get jobs and we never hear about them. We just keep helping those who seek assistance. Learning who hires whom helps us understand better what employers are looking for in an applicant. Personally, it just reminds me that we are always making a difference.



First quarter success story submitted by JobLink team member Tim Byerly/ESC Employment Counselor.



Linking people and services

Intensive Job Club

The 3rd session of Job Club is underway at the Thomasville JobLink. The outcomes during our current economic climate have been impressive. The groups are small by design and by invitation from our Career Center Staff. The meetings are one morning per week for four weeks. Jackie Gilmore-Davis facilitates the program and gives us the following examples of the work that is completed during the meetings:



Resume, cover letter, reference sheet, online applications, completed hard copy job applications, mock interviewing, criminal background checks, and referrals for WIA, WIN, CareerScope, Career Planning, or intensive job search assistance.

Outcomes Achieved

- Established WIA Work Experience - 1*
- Referred for WIA OJT - 2 (Pending)*
- Obtained Employment - 4*
- WIN Enrollment - 2*
- Intensive Job Assistance - 3*



Jackie Gilmore-Davis—Job Club Facilitator

There are 9 customers presently attending the session which will be completed in May.

Thomasville By the Numbers

The following figures have been compiled from monthly reports as taken from the daily sign-in logs. For the 1st Quarter of 2009, Thomasville JobLink had a total of 4,259 customer visits, with 1,098 being new customers. The total number of job placements for this quarter was 89, with 72 employer contacts and 33 services to businesses.



JT Thill, DCCC /WIA Youth Coordinator, instructs some students he is working with at the Thomasville JobLink.



Your Link to Success
Linking People and Businesses to Services

DavidsonWorks



We appreciate the support of our local WDB