

Port 5 Naval Hosts “Service to Country and Community” Recognition Luncheon



Senator Richard Blumenthal

For the third consecutive year, Port 5 Naval Veterans hosted the “Service to Country and Community” Recognition Luncheon honoring our veterans and the organizations that support them. Frontier Communications earned the Corporate Citizen award for their commitment to hiring America’s veterans and for the services they offer to military employees. The CT Patriot Guard Riders received the Organizational Award for outstanding service to the community, and the award for outstanding veteran went to Alfred Meadows, U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam. Guest speakers included U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal; Sean Connolly, Commissioner of the CT Dept. of Veterans’ Affairs; Dennis Murphy, Deputy Commissioner of the CT Dept. of Labor; State Senator Carlo Leone; and State Representative Jack Hennessy.



From left: Staff Sargent Veasna Rouen; Sargent Mike Benedetto; Sargent First Class Daniel Rodriguez; Corporal Alex Rojas

Recent Donations

We are grateful to the following individuals, organizations, and businesses for their recent contributions to The WorkPlace programs. Through their generosity we are able to provide vital services to Connecticut residents who are in need of job search and coaching assistance, training, and other services.

Linda McMahon

The Inner City Foundation for Charity and Education

The Newcomers Club of New Canaan

Wells Fargo

Newman’s Own Foundation

Santa Energy

Partner Spotlight: Connecticut Housing Finance Authority

Since the inception of the Mortgage Crisis Job Training Program (MCJTP) in 2008, the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) has been an essential partner in helping more than 1,400 homeowners statewide avoid foreclosure. CHFA has been MCJTP’s main referral source and also provides information about MCJTP through its call center and through the distribution of collateral materials. Frequently, people fall behind on mortgage payments as a result of a job loss, making the collaborative relationship between CHFA and MCJTP a critical one. While receiving foreclosure prevention assistance from CHFA, clients are frequently referred to MCJTP for career coaching, job search assistance, and training scholarships. Putting people back to work makes it more likely that they will qualify for loan modifications and other mortgage assistance. In the past year there were 5,621 foreclosures statewide. Reliance on CHFA and MCJTP helps people avoid becoming a statistic.



CHFA staff member Rosemarie Holbrook at a community fair

Success Story: YouthWorks



Pechina Alix (center) on the job at DoubleTree with HR Director Linda Dunn and Director of Food & Beverages, Richard Kosiba

Pechina Alix was a 20 year old single mother when she started the YouthWorks program in 2014. Despite the struggles she had been through, Pechina was determined to turn her life around and start a career. Once she completed the educational advancement and work readiness components of the YouthWorks program, Pechina decided to pursue a career in the hospitality industry. Employment Specialist Karl Buckey Walden arranged a summer job placement for her as a Concierge Lounge Server with the DoubleTree by Hilton in Norwalk. That same summer, Pechina enrolled in the Hotel and Hospitality credential program offered through a YouthWorks partner/provider, the Urban League of Southern Connecticut. She passed the certification test for her hotel and hospitality credential in September of 2015. The following month DoubleTree hired her. When asked about her experience at DoubleTree, Pechina said, "I love it here. Everybody here likes me and soon they'll start training me to work in the banquets department". To learn more about YouthWorks visit <http://www.workplace.org/training-and-education>.

Funding Milestone

Health CareRx Academy

The WorkPlace was awarded a five-year \$14 million grant to train low-income individuals for careers in the health professions through The Health CareRx Academy (HCA). The grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and is part of the Healthcare Professional Opportunity Program. Since 2011, HCA has served over 900 low-income and long-term unemployed individuals. Under the new grant, HCA will offer occupational skills training for a wide range of specialties in the healthcare field. Participants can train in certificate programs as well as credit and degree bearing programs. For more information, contact: Adrene Cory at 203-930-1637.



*Recent HCA graduates from left:
Marie Romanowski,
Caroline Eller
Denise Vazquez*

P2E: Putting People Back to Work

Eighty percent (80%) of Platform to Employment (P2E) graduates find employment, a number which is well above the national average. The nationally recognized P2E program provides a proven curriculum of self-assessment, change management, effective communication and successful job search and interview strategies. This statewide program helps to break the cycle of unemployment. Classes are held statewide and applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. More information can be found at: www.platformtoemployment.com or by calling 203-610-8592.



*P2E graduate
Karl Ehrenfels
addressed his class
at graduation on Oct.
16th. P2E placed
him in a job in the
transportation
industry.*

Upcoming Events

The WorkPlace Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, December 18th, 8:15-9:30 a.m. at the Bridgeport Holiday Inn.
All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Lauren at 203-610-8580.

Platform to Employment Graduation
Tuesday, December 22nd, 10:00 a.m.
Gateway Community College, New Haven

The Mobilizer

Workforce development highlights from The WorkPlace

Editor / Joann Coviello
Contributors / WorkPlace staff and partners

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If you have a story you'd like to share, call
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The WorkPlace