

The WorkPlace Mobilizer

»» Think it forward.

September 2019

GEICO Car Donation to a Veteran



A deserving Waterbury resident experienced a life-changing event – the presentation of a vehicle which provides independence and the ability to work and take care of the family – thanks to Durable Automotive Companies and car donor, GEICO Insurance, along with the National Auto Body Council Recycled Rides® program.

James Wall Hanson is a U.S. Navy Veteran who served on active duty between 1971 and 1973 as a Boatswain's Mate (BM1), Petty Officer 1st Class and 2 years with the Naval Reserves. With 2 years of combined Foreign Sea Service, Mr. Hanson was honorably discharged and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal for his service.

Mr. Hanson is enrolled in the Support Services for Veteran Families program with The WorkPlace for employment and housing services. His plan was to begin supporting himself and his family better by obtaining permanent housing and eventually finding employment. Transportation had been a significant barrier to achieving these goals, since he relied on the public bus system.



NABC Recycled Rides® is a unique program in which businesses representing all facets of the collision repair industry team up to repair and donate vehicles to individuals and families in need of reliable transportation. Since the inception of the Recycled Rides® program in 2007, members of the National Auto Body Council have donated more than 2,100 vehicles valued at more than \$36 million.

Impact Day at Dress for Success

On September 12th, PerkinElmer Inc. hosted its fourth annual Impact Day. Employees from PerkinElmer's sites around the world participated in outreach activities that align with the company's mission of innovating for a healthier world. Volunteers from the Shelton office spent the day supporting Dress for Success Mid-Fairfield County.

"A great team of volunteers sorted incoming clothing donations, arranged jewelry, and organized the professional suiting boutique," said Sarah Lewis, Director of Dress for Success. "We appreciate local companies who get involved with our mission. Their assistance builds our capacity so that we can serve even more women acquire the tools to thrive in work and in life."



Technology in the American Job Center



We are determined to make customer time in The American Job Center (AJC) as productive and efficient as possible. The WorkPlace has implemented the AJC Digital Onboarding program. The AJC Digital Onboarding provides immediate assistance to customers as soon as they walk through the door.

Through the use of tablets strategically situated throughout the AJC lobby, customers will be able to sign into the appropriate queue for services aligned with their specific needs.

With the tablets, customers may watch videos on available programs and services such as GED orientations, registering for CTHires.com and unemployment insurance. They will even be able to sign up for workshops and other events via the tablets. The use of the tablets will not only keep customers from sitting idle as they wait for staff, they will also ensure efficient use of staff's time.

We believe customers will experience a reduction in wait times at the center. The technology will align customers into the appropriate queue and provide a faster more appropriate service.

Board Meeting Highlights



Leo Miller, Regional Administrator, U.S. DOL, ETA and Joseph Carbone, Workplace President & CEO

During the September 20th, meeting of the Board of Directors of The WorkPlace members and guest heard from two dynamic speakers in the area of workforce development.

Elicia Pegues Spearman, Esq., VP & CHRO General Dynamics - Electric Boat, addressed the workforce needs of her industry and the opportunity for future employment growth. She provided insights into community partnerships that bring young workers to Electric Boat and discussed the need to retain their mature workers.

We also heard from Leo Miller, Regional Administrator, U.S. DOL, ETA who remarked on issues impacting the state and region's economic recovery. Mr. Miller also shared the priorities of John Pallasch, the newly appointed Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training.



Guest Speaker, Elicia Pegues Spearman, Esq., VP & CHRO General Dynamics - Electric Boat

'Stand Down 2019' Helps CT Veterans With Workforce Training and Guidance



At Stand Down, all of Connecticut's 200,000 veterans can get workforce assistance, training and guidance that they need. Our Support Services For Veteran Families Program staff were in attendance along with more than 30 government agencies and social service organizations.

Stand Down is an annual one-day event that offers veterans assistance in applying for benefits and entitlements with local, state & federal government organizations, private agencies, veteran organizations. Veterans also had access to medical screenings. This year's event was held on September 20th at the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs main campus in Rocky Hill. Free transportation was provided to attendees from pick-up locations throughout the State including Bridgeport, Norwalk, Stamford, Derby, and Westport.

MaturityWorks Success Story

Patrice Newsom worked for 15 years as an administrative assistant, followed by number of years working in medical billing and coding. Most recently she had been working in retail until being laid off.



Patrice applied to *MaturityWorks* hoping to improve her outdated computer skills and learn to demonstrate her value to potential employers. She was assigned to the Middlesex YMCA where she performed a variety of administrative duties and computers work.

While assigned to the Y, Patrice also continued working with her *MaturityWorks* Career Counselor for job search and employment counseling services. With increased confidence and updated computer skills, Patrice landed permanent employment at Trio Properties in Hartford as a Leasing Consultant. Patrice now helps her customers assess their housing needs and identify potential homes. She is happy using the skills updated through her community service assignment and feels empowered to be of value to her employer and her customers.

Visit Us

The WorkPlace

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americanjobcenter

Locations:
Bridgeport Ansonia
Derby Stamford
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Upcoming Events

Platform to Employment Graduation

October 3, 2019 from 10am-12pm. Seymour Public Library, 46 Church Street

Career Resources 23rd Annual Community Career Fair

October 22, 2019 from 9am-1pm
Housatonic Community College 900 Lafayette Blvd, Bridgeport, CT
Open to the Public