Housing Assistance - Helping Families Get Back on Track

Thomas* is a single father of two children who works as a maintenance technician for an apartment complex. Earlier in the year, he and his children all struggled with illness with one child being hospitalized. They all had symptoms of COVID but this was in the early stages when testing was not available. Thomas had to miss about 6 weeks of work while he was taking care of his sick family and fell behind on his bills. The apartment complex kept him on as an employee because he is a hard worker and gave him a grace period on his rent, but he just couldn't get caught up. Thomas contacted Network and we were able to help with his rent in May and June and also help with his past due utilities to avoid disconnection. We were also able to provide food for his family. Thomas was very grateful for the assistance, and shared his thanks with us---***"Thank you so very much. I'm doing whatever I can to catch up to my bills and I will continue to work hard for my girls. Thanks again for what you do in helping us in a time of need."***



Network's Job Search Services - Helping Our Neighbors Become Self-Sufficient



With the economic disruptions of COVID-19, finding jobs that pay a living wage[1] has become even more critical and challenging for our neighbors. Network's Job Search Services team has stepped up to meet these increasing demands with significant program enhancements and additional job coach volunteers to help clients achieve their life and work goals.

The first enhancement was shifting the entire job search program to a fully remote delivery model. The recently updated ***Job Seekers Workshop*** migrated to Zoom video in March and has seen steadily increasing participation since. Each client attending these workshops is eligible to schedule one on one sessions with a Job Coach to help them incorporate these lessons into their own personal search. In addition, premium job search features of Jobscan.co are offered at no cost to these clients. All lesson content has been organized into a structured 6-week curriculum called ***Couch to Payday©- A Training Program for Job Seekers.*** This material is presented weekly by Job Coaches in workshops with video recordings available for online review. The ***Job Seekers Workbook*** provides worksheets that help clients hone their skills between program sessions.

*Names have been changed to protect the privacy of our clients.

[1] MIT Living Wage Calculator defines living wage as the hourly rate that an individual in a household must earn to support his or herself and their family. Assuming full-time employment, the DFW minimum rates are $12.19/hr for a single adult (with no children) and an average of $15.54/hr per adult for family of 2 adults and 2 children.

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