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MEDIA RELEASE

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TWO WORKSOURCE CENTER GRAND OPENINGS

(November 17, 2014 - Los Angeles) Two WorkSource Center Grand Openings were celebrated this week.



The first celebration was the Southeast Los Angeles WorkSource Center operated by the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA). Located in the Imperial Courts in Watts, this is the only housing authority in the US with a fully certified WorkSource Center.

Steve Brown is 20 years old, born and raised in Imperial Courts. Although he participated in summer youth employment programs since he was 13, he went to the WorkSource Center looking for a job opportunity that offered skills training and a living wage; Steve is the father of a two month old son. He got a job with VTP—a flooring company. Brown is thrilled to have a job that is part of the building trades.

Twenty-year old Brenda Ruiz is another story of success. Desperate for a job, she went to the WorkSource Center in Imperial Courts and hired on with VTP and is working as the company's receptionist.

Both Brown and Ruiz shared their stories at the grand opening and posed for pictures with their employer Willie Phillips (center).



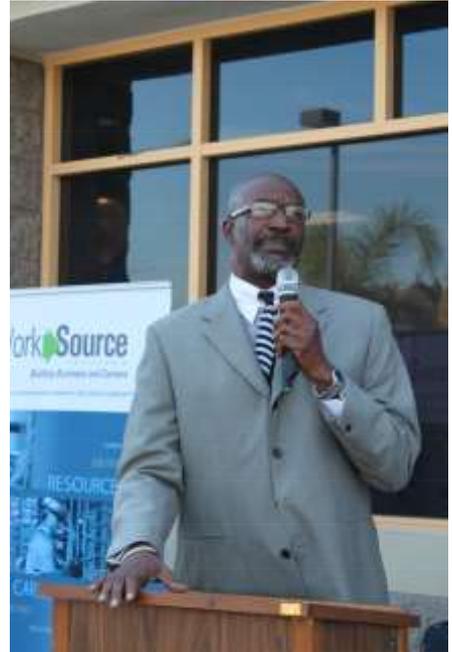
At the Crenshaw WorkSource Center there is a piece of art titled "Dream Catcher."

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“This is where people come to realize their dreams,” said Michael Dolphin, Workforce Investment Board (WIB) member and State Employment Development Department (EDD) Chief. Dolphin was one of the speakers at the Crenshaw WorkSource Center opening which is co-located at the EDD site.

Cedric Wilson a Marine Veteran who was homeless and abused drugs and alcohol turned his life around through the WorkSource Center. He needed transportation assistance, testing, and a number of services in order to find a job in the food service industry. His advice to job seekers, “Have a positive attitude, a prayer and patience.”



There are 17 WorkSource Centers in Los Angeles. They provide personal career counselors; job training; access to computers, copiers, and fax machines; educational assessment; job referrals; job fairs; workshops; and, support groups for job seekers. The WorkSource Centers also provide resources and assistance for businesses such as recruitment services, lay-off aversion and business analysis. All services are free. The centers are managed by community-based organizations and educational institutions through grants administered by the City’s Economic and Workforce Development Division

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