News for the Week of December 18, 2017

VERNON-CENTRAL/LATTC WSC HELPS YOUNG MOTHER PURSUE DEGREE & CAREER

The Vernon-Central WorkSource Center at Los Angeles Trade Technical College (LATTC) provided comprehensive support services to a former foster youth, helping the young mother overcome barriers that could derail her path to college graduation. Three years ago, Tiffany, 25, had exited foster care and was struggling to provide for her twin boys. She said she was drifting without a plan when she experienced a major loss. Her sons were taken away. “Instead of dwelling on something that’s negative, I decided to turn it into a positive,” she said. “I had to get it together, and I knew I had to do everything right.” Tiffany resolved to pursue a career in social work. She moved into her own apartment and started a two-year program to gain the skills and credentials necessary to obtain a postsecondary education, all while pregnant with her third child. Tiffany received support from the Vernon-Central/LATTC WorkSource Center, run by EWDD partner Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCD). Tiffany connected with a CRCD college navigator who helped Tiffany line up low-cost child care and develop a step-by-step plan that would enable Tiffany to transition back to school once she returned from maternity leave. CRCD “has really pushed me and made me realize who I am as a person, so I can stay motivated in school,” Tiffany said. “Education is important, and it’s something nobody can ever take from you.” Tiffany gave birth to a healthy baby boy and re-enrolled in classes at Los Angeles Trade Technical College. She is applying to four-year universities in the area and aiming to transfer in 2018. Once she earns her degree, Tiffany says she hopes to work for a foster care agency. She credits the unwavering support she receives from CRCD for her success. “When I am having a bad day and don’t feel like being in school, I can reach out for help,” she said. “Everything has been better, and having that extra support has made all the difference.” Tiffany’s advice to other young people facing tough circumstances? “You’re never stuck. You just have to be willing to make that change.” Positive changes continue for Tiffany. She was reunited with her twin boys.
NEARLY 100 ATTEND PARA LOS NIÑOS YOUTHSOURCE CENTER HOLIDAY PARTY

Nearly 100 participants and family members from the Central and East Region Para Los Niños (PLN) YouthSource Centers attended the PLN Holiday Celebration on Tuesday December 20, 2017. Students and guests enjoyed lunch and children received toys and gifts donated to the PLN YouthSource Staff. Attendees also played games facilitated by PLN staff. Twenty-one members of the PLN Alumni Network also joined in the festivities, allowing former students to continue their relationship with PLN beyond the YouthSource Center experience. The PLN Alumni Network is an initiative designed to facilitate navigation of the college enrollment process and promote student retention.

Children line up to meet Santa at the 2017 Para Los Niños YouthSource Centers Holiday Party

HARBOR BUSINESSSSOURCE CENTER HELPS SIMPLE SCOOPER ENTREPRENEUR

The Harbor BusinessSource Center (BSC) helped entrepreneur Leon Nyarecha obtain a $2,000 loan to develop an app-based retail store that sells Simple Scooper – a compact, easy to use dog poop scooper which prevents dog owners from ever having to touch dog poop. Leon was looking for assistance to get SimpleScooper LLC off the ground when a former client referred him to the Harbor BSC in September 2017. A Harbor BSC consultant assisted Leon in applying for a $2,000 Kiva Zip loan to pay for his 3-D printed prototype. Kiva Zip is a zero percent interest crowd-funded loan offered to small business owners. The Harbor BSC is a trustee with Kiva Zip, which helped increase Leon’s chances of raising the funds. Leon’s loan was funded on December 6th, 2017, and he is currently in the process of submitting the specs for his prototype and plans to continue to work with the Harbor BusinessSource Center to grow his company.

Entrepreneur Leon Nyarecha obtained a development loan with assistance from the Harbor BusinessSource Center
**BUSINESS METRICS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LABSCs Reporting:</th>
<th>North Valley, West Valley, South Valley, South LA, East LA, Mid City, Central West, Hollywood and Harbor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Startups Enrolled</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Startups Assisted</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start-ups/Operating Businesses Enrolled</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start-ups/Operating Businesses Assisted</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops: Number of Clients Attended</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WORKFORCE METRICS: (arrows indicate weekly trend)**

**JobsLA (online and mobile)**

- 86,494 Page Views
- 27.6% New Visitors
- 4,268 New Sessions
- 525 Registrations

**WorkSource Centers**

- 636 Enrollments

“Updates” is produced by EWDD’s communications department. If you have questions, comments or wish to contribute to an upcoming “Updates,” please contact Jamie Francisco at (213) 744-9048 or Jamie.Francisco@lacity.org