

**News for the Week of June 19, 2017**

**NORTH VALLEY BUSINESSSOURCE CENTER HELPS TOP CHEF-LED RESTAURANT EXPAND, RETAIN EMPLOYEES AND CREATE NEW POSITIONS**



*(Left) Scratch Inc. Executive Chefs and owners Margarita and Phillip Lee in the kitchen. Mr. Lee was prominently featured in season 13 of Top Chef. (Right) Adjacent to Scratch Bar & Kitchen is expansion project Woodley Proper, located in Encino.*

The North Valley BusinessSource Center recently helped an Encino-based restaurant secure a \$250,000 business loan, allowing it to complete an expansion, keep 15 jobs and add 26 new positions. Douglas MacClean owns a chain of four restaurants, including Scratch Bar & Kitchen (SBK), which opened in December 2015 with great fanfare for its unique twist on standard restaurant concepts and commitment to preparing artisanal dishes from scratch. Leading SBK’s kitchen is Executive Chef Phillip Frankland Lee, who competed in season 13 of renowned Bravo TV cooking competition show Top Chef. In its first year, SBK was recognized as one of Los Angeles’ top new restaurants and regularly received five star reviews on Yelp and Open Table. In an effort to accommodate high demand, SBK signed a lease on adjoining space in July 2016 and began developing a new restaurant concept called Woodley Proper. The expansion quadrupled the seating capacity of the restaurant and allowed the addition of an a la carte menu to the current fixed price menu. Due to the cost to acquire a liquor license for the adjoining space, along with the purchase and installation of additional equipment, furniture and fixtures, the business was drained of its working capital and needed access to additional capital in order to complete the expansion and avoid losing employees. Mr. MacClean was referred to the North Valley BusinessSource Center, where with the assistance of a business development officer, he obtained a \$250,000 business loan through the Valley Economic Development Center (VEDC). As a result of this business loan, the expansion became a reality, leading to the retention of 15 employees and 26 new jobs.



*The Para Los Niños YouthSource Center Class of 2017 includes 47 disconnected youth who earned their high school diploma*

## **PARA LOS NIÑOS YOUTHSOURCE CENTER CELEBRATES HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES**

Cheers of pride filled the Plaza De La Raza auditorium in East Los Angeles on June 16, 2017, as family and friends celebrated the high school graduation of approximately 47 Para Los Niños YouthSource Center students who passed the HiSET high school equivalency exam. “The staff helped me believe in myself and all the support they gave me helped,” said Modi Gomez, a graduate and student commencement speaker. “I really want to say ‘Thank you’ because I think I wouldn’t have gotten this far.” The ceremony provided an opportunity for students, many who were disconnected youth, to don caps and gowns and experience a graduation ceremony and the achievement of returning to school to earn their high school diploma. Para Los Niños and EWDD staff delivered congratulatory speeches that acknowledged the obstacles many of the students have overcome and encouraged them to continue pursuing their dreams. Destiny Nguyen, 21, enrolled in PLN’s adult school program in September 2016. A former foster youth, Ms. Nguyen struggled with family issues and a period of homelessness. The resources at PLN helped her overcome feelings of embarrassment that she had not completed her high school diploma with her class in 2013 and provided guidance to get her back on track. Now, Ms. Nguyen is back home living with family and juggling three jobs, including the graveyard shift at a local Target, working at a local restaurant and an internship at PLN. Ms. Nguyen, who speaks more than half a dozen languages, including English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Cambodian and Tagalog, will be attending Pasadena City College this fall with the goal of earning credits toward a degree in Linguistics. “I’ve realized my family is here with PLN,” she said. All PLN graduates are eligible for at least one tuition-free year of higher education as part of the L.A. College Promise, a program that guarantees admission and a year of tuition-free education to Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) graduates at one of the nine campuses in the Los Angeles Community College District.

## **EI PROYECTO YOUTH GRANTED INTERNSHIPS THROUGH GAP, INC. RETAIL PROGRAM**

Sixteen youth from the El Proyecto del Barrio, Inc. YouthSource Center in Sun Valley completed 12 weeks of work readiness and customer service training as part of Gap Inc.’s This Way Ahead, a paid life skills and internship program geared toward helping low-income youth get their first job at Old Navy, Gap and Banana Republic Stores. The internship opportunity is part of a partnership between Archdiocesan Youth Employment Services and the Gap Foundation. Youth started their internships on June 18, 2017, where they will \$12 per hour

and work 12 hours a week for 10 weeks. Approximately 75 percent of interns receive offers for permanent jobs after completing their internships, according to Gap, Inc.

**BUSINESS METRICS:**

<b>LABSCs Reporting:</b> North Valley, West Valley, South Valley, South LA, East LA, Mid City, Central West, Hollywood and Harbor.	
<b>LABSCs Not Reporting:</b> None.	
Pre-Startups Enrolled	30
Pre-Startups Assisted	21
Start-ups/Operating Businesses Enrolled	42
Start-ups/Operating Businesses Assisted	33
Workshops: Number of Clients Attended	50

**WORKFORCE METRICS:**

*(Arrows indicate weekly trend)*

JobsLA (online and mobile)



Page Views

(Up 11.6%)



New Visitors

(Up 0.6%)



New Sessions

(Up 5.3%)



Registrations

(Up 3%)

WorkSource Centers



Enrollments

(Up 4%)