# THE WORKS JOB RAIN QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## **Spring 2012**

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## **Upcoming Events** Calendar 2012

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❖ May 4, 2012: 28th Annual Breakfast of Champions

❖ July 23, 2012: Golf, Glitz & Glamour

To become an event sponsor or to learn more about these events, please contact Kail Lubarsky at 650.330.6569 or email klubarsky@jobtrainworks.org

> **Newsletter Staff:** SHARON WILLIAMS KAIL LUBARSKY









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### Director's Corner:

## What is JobTrain's Secret Sauce?



JobTrain's spirit and energy undeniable. No matter how often I am told, "I felt it (positive energy) the moment I walked in the door," I am thrilled each time to be assured that the magic lives. JobTrain is different from other programs. "What is JobTrain's secret sauce?" I am asked. "What sets JobTrain apart?" Our unique essence

is created by many ingredients all mixed together by a cadre of charismatic "cooks". Although I've never before seen it in writing, I will do my best to share with you our recipe for:

### **JobTrain's Secret Sauce**

*Use only the highest quality ingredients.* 

**Equal parts:** Mix first eleven ingredients together.

Hope Add:

A generous dash of fun Respect Plenty of creativity Caring High expectations Unlimited smiles

Active listening Courage Effort Flexibility

The "sharing table" Passion Positive attitudes Fresh coffee and hot tea

Relevant services Trainee of the Month gatherings

Dedicated and qualified staff The ringing job bell

Hard working students

Hugs

Warm with love and stir constantly, adjusting heat and ingredients as needed, until sauce reaches desired consistency and taste. Serve generously.

To experience our sauce for yourself, come visit JobTrain at any time. Call me at 650-330-6411.

Bon Appetit,

Sharon Williams

Executive Director

## **Facebook is Presenting Sponsor**

## Coach of the Year Jim Harbaugh and Restaurateur Jesse Cool Headline May 4 Breakfast of Champions Event in Santa Clara

Where will Coach of the Year Jim Harbaugh, Hall of Fame women's basketball coach Tara VanDerveer, comedian Mike Pritchard, Warriors legend Al Attles, NFL Hall of Famer Ronnie Lott, KTVU reporter Rita Williams and sustainable restaurateur Jesse Cool all be on the morning of May 4? At JobTrain's Breakfast of Champions, of course! YOU should be there too! Please join these and other legends for a phenomenal morning of inspiration and fun.

**Breakfast of Champions** is a fast-paced roller coaster ride that makes you laugh and cry and ultimately feel good about life. The crowd is an exciting mix of celebrities, business and community leaders and JobTrain students, graduates and supporters.

JobTrain champions will be celebrated at the Breakfast too – people who defied the odds to succeed and to open doors for others to follow in their footsteps. DJ Bowcutt will be there. Bowcutt graduated from JobTrain (then OICW) ten years ago. Despite daily survival challenges for DJ and his family, he worked hard in class, never lost hope, maintained a positive attitude, and launched a successful career with Wells Fargo when he graduated. Now Bowcutt is earning a six-figure salary at Zappos.com. Bowcutt says that he is the happiest he's ever been, and he credits the quality education and caring staff at JobTrain with his success.

Breakfast of Champions is JobTrain's biggest annual fundraiser. Facebook's underwriting of event

## **Support Breakfast of Champions!**

Grand Champion \$25,000
Blue Ribbon Champion \$10,000
Red Ribbon Champion \$5,000
Yellow Ribbon Champion \$2,000
Table Sponsor \$1,000
Regular table for 10 \$600
Individual tickets \$60

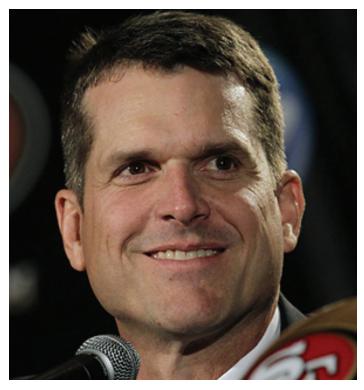
Become a sponsor or purchase tables or tickets on our web site: <a href="www.jobtrainworks.org">www.jobtrainworks.org</a> or contact Reshma Putnam at (650) 330-6436 <a href="mailto:rputnam@jobtrainworks.org">rputnam@jobtrainworks.org</a>

Above: Jim Harbaugh Right: Jesse Cool

**expenses** will make it possible for other funds raised to go directly toward support of JobTrain programs. Facebook is a new JobTrain neighbor in east-of-Bayshore Menlo Park.

**Coach of the Year Jim Harbaugh** will be the keynote speaker and sustainable **Restaurateur Jesse Cool** will receive the Role Model Award at the event.

Sponsoring opportunities and tickets for Breakfast of Champions are available by calling or emailing Reshma Putnam: (650) 330-6436 or rputnam@jobtrainworks.org.





## **Stanford Honors JobTrain Heroes**

Sometimes you just have to stop and realize that who you are and what you do make you very special. On February 29, JobTrain Medical Office Assistant Instructor Joy Martin-Spriggs and her student, Lacole Phillips, were honored as "local heroes" during a Stanford women's basketball game. This is Stanford Athletics' way of recognizing the best Bay Area organizations and their people for making a positive difference in their communities.

When Joy and Lacole walked out on the court at Maples Pavilion, they were greeted with wild applause. It was an experience both women said they will cherish forever. Among the thousands of fans in Maples Pavilion were approximately 60 JobTrain students, staff and board members who attended the special occasion compliments of Coach Tara VanDerveer.

In her six years as a JobTrain instructor, Joy has helped many hundreds of students recognize their potential and launch solid careers. Joy's effective teaching style is credited with her Medical Office Assistant class having the highest attendance rates at JobTrain. Moreover, her graduates enter the job market armed with marketable vocational skills and a renewed sense of purpose and self-confidence.

Lacole credits Joy with helping her believe in herself – something she struggled to do before enrolling in the MOA

class. Despite battling a restrictive language disorder, Lacole maintains a positive "can-do"mindset. Lacole compensates for her challenge with diligence, dedication to her studies and precise focus and determination. In recognition of her stellar performance and attitude in the Medical Office Assistant program, Lacole received JobTrain's Trainee of the Month Award in February. Lacole intends to continue with her formal education after she graduates from JobTrain in May.



## Wells Fargo Selects Project Build for Small Business Renovation Project

Imagine reality shows like HGTV's "Design on a Dime" and Bravo's "Top Design," then imagine construction workers from JobTrain doing the actual work. Partnering with the Wells Fargo Small Business Renovation Program and Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center, Project Build students from JobTrain are providing critically needed makeovers for (3) small businesses located in San Mateo County low income neighborhoods.

The project began on March 12, 2012 as part of a small business improvement campaign launched by Wells Fargo. Each business owner provided (10) hours of sweat equity towards the project. Anis Hair Studio, Taqueria Los Temos and Vega's Market & Grill each received \$3,000 worth of cosmetic improvements to enhance their businesses. However, this special undertaking "is really about transforming and empowering communities," said Greg Young, Community Development Officer at Wells Fargo. As part of the award, these local merchants also receive customized training in small business development and learn how to access capital through workshops offered by Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center.

Beginning in June, these three businesses will receive free ATM advertising on all Wells Fargo ATMs in San Mateo County. In the meantime, please be sure to check out the great work done by JobTrain's Project Build students and show your support at these local businesses!

### **Board of Directors**

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## JobTrain "LIKES" Facebook

JobTrain delegations of students and staff expressed their appreciation for their new neighbor, Facebook, at a series of Menlo Park and East Palo Alto City Council meetings recently. Facebook, the world's largest and most popular social media company, is now headquartered only minutes away from JobTrain. Facebook will generate employment opportunities for thousands of local residents in years to come, and JobTrain "likes" that potential opportunity for their graduates. During the council's open forum sessions, Facebook was praised by many local educators, environmentalists and community organizations.

For JobTrain student David Ibarra, Facebook's presence "is the best thing that has ever happened to my neighborhood." David is a 28 year old single father, studying solar photovoltaic installation at JobTrain. David delivered his first-ever public speech to the Menlo Park City Council. "I am confident Facebook will be a BIG plus for our community by providing employment opportunities and helping to serve as role models for youth and people at JobTrain," he said. In response to concerns about the added traffic caused by Facebook's expansion, David asked, "Wouldn't you

agree that it's better to have traffic because people actually have jobs – rather than traffic from hundreds of people desperately driving around trying to find employment?"



JobTrain staff and students carried signs bearing the Facebook "like" icon to show their support and appreciation for the social networking company at city council meetings. Facebook is lifting the spirits and hopes of their new neighbors according to speakers from schools, environmentalists and nonprofits.

## JobTrain Partners with PG&E and Community Colleges To Prepare Young People for Careers in Energy Industry

JobTrain is participating with PG&E, San Jose City College and College of San Mateo in a National collaborative pilot program created to help young people between the ages of 16 and 26 explore career opportunities in the energy industry. The program, called "Get Into Energy", was launched by the Center for Energy Workforce Development.

Edward Mora is a testament to the program's success. Edward is enrolled in "Get Into Energy" at College of San Mateo and works closely with JobTrain's

Career Development Specialist Nancy Peccorini. Mora had high scores on the PG&E assessments, is thriving in his course work, and hopes to launch a career with PG&E.

This summer, JobTrain will operate an innovative and exciting new program: Energy Industry Fundamentals. The five-week course provides a broad understanding of the electrical and natural gas utility industry, including basics of energy generation, transmission and distribution.

## Menlo Park Mayor Makes Time to Read to JobTrain Preschoolers

Despite the demands of leading city council meetings, working as a lawyer, vying for a seat on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and raising two children, Menlo Park Mayor Kirsten Keith made time to visit JobTrain's preschool. She brought a big donation of toys with her.

Keith didn't give a second thought to wrinkling her suit or getting dirty by sitting on the floor. She joined the group of smiling children on their level and, after reading a book to the group, Keith played with the preschoolers. She showed them toys that her own children had loved when they were their age. The children thanked the mayor and asked her to come back soon.

## **BofA Gives JobTrain Neighborhood Builder Award**



JobTrain Executive Director Sharon Williams accepted the award and is pictured here with Project Build student RAFAEL MORALES and Culinary Arts representative COSTANDINOS "Dino" SIOTOS.

**Bank of America** honored JobTrain and Second Harvest Food Bank as recipients of this year's Neighborhood Builder Awards. Each organization received a \$200,000 unrestricted grant and leadership training.

Bank of America also recognized five "Local Heroes" for their community service work with \$5,000 donations toward the nonprofit of their choice. The recipients and their charities were Charles Aronstam, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford; Chad Bojorquez, InnVision; Georgia Travis Multi-Service Day Center; Christine Case, Expanding Your Horizons event at Skyline College; Lauri Steel, Habitat for Humanity Silicon Valley; and Jeffery Trout, TriSoldier Project.

## Giving Back to Community:

## JobTrain Brings Spirit of Mardi Gras and Meals for Munchkins to Ronald McDonald House

In case you can't tell, those masked individuals pictured include JobTrain board member Isaiah Vi; Culinary Arts student Tra'cey Duncan and staff: Kizzy Carter, Sasha Gourevitch, Kail Lubarsky, Ana Gomez, Ilya Benjamin and C2 Vea.

We spent President's Day working at the Ronald McDonald House sharing smiles, making memories and serving a delicious and authentic New Orleans feast of "Kizzy's AMAZING Crescent City Gumbo," sweet french bread, potato salad, fried chicken and southern banana pudding! It was a terrific team building exercise.

Patients and their families absolutely LOVED the food and were sincerely grateful that JobTrain was there. However, we didn't just provide an amazing meal — but an experience — a temporary "reality respite" that these families so desperately need. I wish that you could have seen the smiles on the kids' faces as we placed beads around their necks and gave them masks to wear. This indelible memory will be with me always.

After we served second and third portions (yes, they liked it that much), we then joined the families and patients for dinner. Connections were made with



parents about our vocational training programs and there was genuine interest about the work that we do and the services we offer. JobTrain informational packets will now be part of the resources provided to families with an extended stay at RMDH.

The Ronald McDonald House at Stanford is a phenomenal organization. For nearly half a century, JobTrain has thrived in Silicon Valley because of the kindness and generosity of community members. We recognize how fortunate we've been and it's our privilege to serve our community as well. JobTrain is definitely looking forward to our next Meals for Munchkins event!

## CalTrans and San Mateo County Work with JobTrain to help Former Inmates

Perhaps the only thing more frightening than being behind bars is the fear that your past will still imprison you after you are released. For many former inmates, failure to find work can feel like a life sentence. Exoffenders face tough challenges getting hired.

A new program that features employment preparation and work experience with pay is being offered to people being released from jail in San Mateo County. This program is a three-way partnership among San Mateo County (Achieve 180), CalTrans and JobTrain. Recently released men and women will participate in paid work experience positions

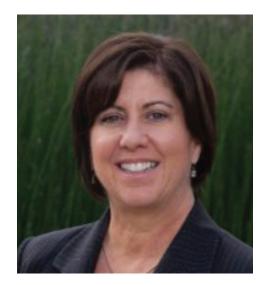
maintaining state roadways in a 90-day transitional employment program. In addition to wages, participants will gain new skills and an invaluable chance to establish a recent work history.

JobTrain will operate the program on behalf of the county and CalTrans and will oversee 144 workers over two years. Participants can be assured that JobTrain will be with them every step of the way to ensure their success. JobTrain has long believed that the best social service program in the world is a job – including being a strategy to reduce recidivism.

## **Teri Eyre Joins Board**

Teri Eyre of Hewlett-Packard is JobTrain's newest board member. Teri's interest in JobTrain began in 2010 when JobTrain hosted "Community Day" for HP's Global HR World Summit. The Human Resources department at Hewlett-Packard also developed and presented an employment success training series for JobTrain students.

Teri leads Human Resources for the HP Personal Systems Group on a worldwide basis, a \$40 billion global operation. She is directly responsible for HR strategy and workforce planning, talent and succession, executive recruiting, compensation, and leadership and sales development. She holds a PhD in industrial and organizational psychology.



## 1200 O'Brien Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025

JobTrain is a 501(c)3 nonprofit service provider, established in 1965. Programs and services are provided at no cost, thanks to generous support from individual, corporate and foundation donors, as well as government grants.

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