

NEWS & NOTES

A monthly newsletter to keep you informed.

JobNet's Success Coach Helps Clients Reach Goals



JobNet Success Coach Stephanie Wen provides hope and resources to job seekers.

Meet JobNet Success Coach Stephanie Wen, who provides motivation, guidance and support to clients while addressing obstacles to their employment.

Stephanie, who has a background in hospital case management and brings 13 years' experience connecting a diverse population with local resources, joined JobNet last December.

Clients meet with Stephanie virtually to develop goals, identify strengths, and access outside resources.

"Looking for jobs in this 'new normal' is uncomfortable work, but JobNet is able to pivot with our clients through these transitions," Stephanie said. "Through partnering with people in transition, making resource referrals and goal setting, clients build the skills and networks to land on their feet."

How Stephanie addresses issues and supports JobNet clients:

- Job searching can be exhausting. Time management and work/ life balance are frequent topics of discussion, as well as focus on self-care and the ability to obtain outside counseling and healthcare.
- Job seekers frequently face economic hardship during the job search. Stephanie encourages clients to acquire new skills by attending JobNet workshops or outside vocational programming to develop necessary computer skills that will help them stretch into new roles.
- Clients overwhelmed with personal hardship may be unable to move forward until they meet basic needs first. Stephanie uses a blended style of case management and resource referral with goal setting to help job seekers move forward.

- JobNet clients can benefit from a variety of vocational programs. Stephanie makes sure clients know which agencies offer programs that can help them succeed.
- Clients build and refine their interview skills, and become more confident in naming their strengths and weaknesses, helping them to nail their interviews.

"It is so exciting to meet with clients from diverse work backgrounds and help them locate that new opportunity," Stephanie said. "I am amazed at what our clients push themselves to do and proud of what they accomplish. They make every day a great day to dig in and work."

CCSC Volunteers Talk About Serving During Pandemic

CCSC's program design relies heavily on volunteers. At Emergency Services-Central, these volunteers are the generous people who pack groceries, answer calls from those in need, maintain database records, interview clients, and more.

While we miss seeing those volunteers who cannot serve right now (and look forward to their eventual return!), we are grateful for those who are in our midst as the pandemic continues.



Bob Duffy, left, and Chris Gibson, right, serve in CCSC's Emergency Services-Central food pantry.

Recently, we asked a few volunteers, "What would you want others to know about your recent service at CCSC?" Here are a few of their responses:

"There are so many restrictions on what I can and can't do during this pandemic. Volunteering at CCSC is the one meaningful thing I can do that will help those less fortunate folks. It gives me a purpose." --Sue Farrell, food packer

"During this pandemic, CCSC is able to give food and financial assistance quickly and safely. We are serving a more diverse population than previously. People that have never asked for any help now find themselves unable to pay rent or buy food." --Marcia Cooper, interviewer

"The pandemic has cut out many simple pleasures. Filling a grocery bag with basic supplies makes me feel like I'm contributing to those in need one family at a time. Can I add a line about the great people I volunteer with as well?" --Chris Gibson, food packer

"With the need being so overwhelming in Houston at this time, how can I not continue to give two Saturday mornings a month to help ease

another's burdens?" --Mimi McGehee, reception

Thank you, CCSC volunteers! We are grateful for your generous spirits.



Is This Volunteer Spot Right for YOU?

Emergency Services Interviewer. Both Emergency Services-Central and Emergency Services-Southwest need volunteers to train to do over-the-phone financial interviews one day per week to help clients with rent and utility assistance. Being bilingual in Spanish/English is helpful.

These volunteer roles will take place at the Emergency Services program facilities at 3230 Mercer and 6856 Bellaire under the guidance of staff and seasoned volunteers. The volunteering does not involve face-to-face contact with clients.

Greeter/Guides: In our new J. Dean Robinson Building on the W.T. & Louise J. Moran campus we will need a variety of greeters to volunteer once per week to guide clients, volunteers and guests.

To learn more about these, or other, CCSC volunteer positions please contact Erin Donohue at volunteer@ccschouston.org.



"Allison" R. and her children choose washable face masks while at CCSC to receive gas and food gift cards.

Martha's Way Client's Journey Impacted by COVID

"Allison" R.'s journey brought her family from Columbia to Houston and then to a successful graduation from CCSC's Martha's Way residential housekeeping program. Now the pandemic has brought her back to CCSC.

Allison's first contact with CCSC came in 2017 when she received clothing

and financial assistance for glasses. We also helped her connect with resources to learn to drive and obtain her license. Allison graduated from CCSC's Martha's Way program and received a job lead with a customer whose home she cleaned for over two years.

That customer also helped Allison on her way by aiding her with the purchase of a car and her pursuit of English classes and other education. "The (Martha's Way) program motivated me to reach my goals," Allison said.

Before the pandemic, Allison was operating her housekeeping business while also working in life insurance. However, the pandemic left her without work at either job, and then she contracted COVID and spent four days in the hospital.

CCSC learned of Allison's situation while making check-in calls to previous Martha's Way graduates. We were able to provide Allison with assistance in the form of grocery and gas gift cards and a lead for a babysitting job. Although recovered from COVID and, thankfully, back at work at her insurance job, Allison has developed asthma from the virus and her family has had to move to a less expensive home.

Allison remains determined to face her current challenges with the same resourcefulness and tenacity that have seen her through other difficult times. "I'm very grateful to CCSC for all the help I received through this journey," Allison said.

CCSC will continue to stay in touch with Allison, connect her to resources to help her make ends meet, and support her on her journey.



Match your Donor-Advised Fund Giving Through September 30

Do you plan on using contributions from a donor-advised fund (DAF) for your charitable giving this year? If so, consider increasing your impact to CCSC with the [#HalfMyDAF](#) matching grant challenge, which aims to put more charitable dollars to work right now, when and where it's needed most.

Anyone who makes a donor-advised fund gift to CCSC and commits to granting half of the money in their DAF before September 30 gives us the chance to receive a matching grant of up to \$25,000. The more people who nominate CCSC, the better our chances. You can learn more about the [#HalfMyDAF](#) challenge and nominate CCSC for a matching grant at halfmydaf.com.

Match Your Gift Through Your Employer

Many companies offer employees, retirees, and sometimes even employee spouses, a matching gift benefit that can double your donation to charitable organizations like CCSC. Some will even give a matching contribution for volunteer hours. **Check with your human resources department to find out how you can increase your impact when you give to CCSC.** Your gift could help twice as many people in need!

The mission of the Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) is to serve the poor, hungry, disabled, and otherwise needy while respecting their religious, ethnic or cultural differences.



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To donate nonperishable food to CCSC's food pantries, LIKE us on [Facebook](#) to find out when and where drive-thru food drives are happening, and then share that information with your friends via social media. You may also drop off donations at 3230 Mercer St., Monday-Friday 9 a.m to 2 p.m. or Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., or at 6856 Bellaire Blvd. Mondays and Tuesdays or Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. THANK YOU!

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