

JVS At Work

Fall 2015

Building Better Lives. One Job At A Time.

BANKWORK\$® CELEBRATES 1,000TH GRADUATE

JVSLA's award-winning BankWork\$® career training program reached a significant milestone with the graduation of its 1000th student in the November 2015 class. Associate

Director Lisa Meadows has led the program since its launch in 2006.

"They are now better able to cope with every day obstacles," said Meadows. "So many BankWork\$ graduates say 'this has not only helped me find a job but changed how I live my life.'"

Providing a unique opportunity to primarily low income individuals throughout Los Angeles

County, the program is offered free of charge to eligible students, thanks to a vibrant public-private partnership. With funding from banks, foundations and local government, BankWork\$ represents a highly replicable model for transitioning people to high wage, high growth jobs.

The program has rigorous standards for attendance, participation and performance throughout the 8-week course. The results are impressive. An 82% placement rate with over 80% retention after six months on the job. To date, BankWork\$ has placed more than 800 graduates in financial sector and related jobs throughout the region.

This past summer, BankWork\$ expanded its reach, partnering with the Puente Learning Center, the Boyle Heights YouthSource Center and the City of Compton's CareerLink.

Alumni speaker Dominique Satterwhite took the night shift at his job in a juice bar during the BankWork\$ program. "I had always worked hard to be successful, but I just couldn't find the opportunities to help me realize my professional dreams," he said. "I was hired as a teller at Bank of America within two weeks of my graduation in 2013 and was then promoted to personal banker. I couldn't have asked for a better or more effective preparation for my new career." *Continued on Page 5*



2013 BankWork\$ graduate Dominique Satterwhite is now a Personal Banker at Bank of America

WLN HOSTS SUCCESSFUL 3RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE



(L to R) Featured speakers Heather Thomson, Dr. Kristi Funk, Event Host Kiki Elrod, Chief Ethel McGuire and Anita Mann.

The JVS Women's Leadership Network hosted its 3rd Annual Woman to Woman Conference on September 17th at the Skirball Cultural Center with well over 500 attendees, raising over \$278,000 and resulting in dozens of new members. This year's sold-out conference was the largest to date and delivered on its promise to inspire, motivate and move attendees. *Continued on Page 6*

JVS MULTIPLIER EFFECT HIGHLIGHTED AT STRICTLY BUSINESS L.A.

Nearly 450 business leaders, donors and friends joined JVS Los Angeles at the Beverly Hilton on May 7th to support the agency's efforts to put Angelenos back to work.



(L to R) JVS Board President Jim Hausberg with Corporate Leadership Award honorees Saeed and Myra Nourmand, Michelle Nourmand and Young Leader Award honoree Michael Nourmand.

The 18th Annual Strictly Business L.A. Awards Luncheon and Networking

Event, chaired by Board President Jim Hausberg and Board Member Steve Seigel, honored JVS' exceptional corporate partners and inspiring JVS clients whose lives have been improved through the agency's programs. The event, hosted for the third consecutive year by iconic NBC weatherman and comedian Fritz Coleman, raised nearly \$400,000.

Coleman explained the JVS Multiplier Effect - the social return on our donor investment to recruit, train and place a JVS client on a career path; an investment that is repaid multiple times in economic impact and produces additional positive effects throughout an individual's life and within the local economy.

Michael Nourmand, the second generation CEO of

Nourmand & Associates, one of the city's most successful residential brokerage firms, received the inaugural Young Leader Award. Company co-founders Myra and Saeed Nourmand, received the Corporate Leadership Award. And CPEhr, one of the largest privately held

human resources outsourcing firms in the United States, received the Corporate Partnership Award.

The new agency-produced video "JVS – The Way Forward" featured the stories of five inspirational JVS clients who overcame overwhelming odds in their own lives and provide inspiration to others facing challenges. It is featured on the JVS website www.jvsla.org and on YouTube.

Through its Business Development Division, JVS has helped secure more than \$2 million in training funds for local businesses through the California Employment Training Panel (ETP). In recognition of the benefits both to their companies and to the economy, eight participating businesses were presented with the JVS ETP Partnership Award.

GARDEN PARTY SHINES AT INAUGURAL YOUNG LEA

This summer, JVS board members Steve Seigel and Matt Winnick hosted the inaugural Young Leaders Network Luncheon Garden Party at the Bel Air residence of Karen and Gary Winnick. With more than 100 guests in attendance, their goal was to introduce JVS LA to their own circle of friends and colleagues who are young professionals, established executives, entrepreneurs and philanthropists in their own right.

"Matt and I are both really excited about the work JVS does," Seigel said as he opened the program. "We asked all of you to spend your Saturday afternoon with good friends in this amazing garden, enjoying some fantastic food because we think you will feel the same way about JVS once you know more about it."

The luncheon featured a silent auction and guest speakers from two of JVS'

signature programs that help people overcome barriers to employment, lift them out of poverty and help them achieve self-sufficiency—Meredith Burnley, a WoMentoring graduate now working in construction management; and Oscar Hernandez, a BankWork\$ graduate who works at Wells Fargo.

"Our hope was that if we could inspire and engage people, and they in turn volunteered or made a donation, or

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS WITH JVS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

A record gathering of more than 300 donors, students, JVS board members, family and friends at Sinai Temple for the annual JVS Scholarship Awards Reception marked yet another milestone for the program in its 43-year history. For the 2015-16 academic year, the JVS Scholarship Program awarded \$644,000 in scholarships to 199 students. Both the total grant amount and the number of students funded are records for the program. The students are attending an impressive range of universities throughout the United States including Harvard, Yale, UCLA, Georgetown, Stanford and UC Berkeley, as well as internationally

The majority of the recipients received scholarships ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000. In addition, 10 medical students will receive a \$10,000 William and Leah Molle Scholarship. The Molle Foundation has committed to providing additional support for medical students for the 2016-17 academic year.

One of the most meaningful traditions of the annual event is the presentation of the Tzedakah Box Campaign, which enables current recipients and their families as well as alumni to begin giving back, no matter the size of the donation. Since its inception five years ago, the campaign has raised \$115,000, primarily in small donations, enabling



(L to R back row) Donors Josh Gelbart, Sarah Gelbart, Sheila Baran Spiwak, Alissa Spiwak, Aaron Spiwak; (L to R front row) with their scholarship recipients Tova Scholl, Tali Bar-Or and Lauren Dubey

the program to award 55 additional scholarships. Once again, donations were matched dollar for dollar in loving memory of Ben and Sarah Baran.

Dr. Kevin Hayavi, who co-chairs the JVS Scholarship Alumni Legacy Society, addressed the need for current scholarship recipients to become donors in the future. Hayavi and fellow Alumni Association Co-chair Dr. Brian Gantwerker were both JVS Scholarship recipients who now sponsor students themselves.

“I picked up the phone and called JVS because I wanted to give back,” Hayavi told the audience. “So my message to all the recipients tonight is not to forget the people who helped you along the way.”

LEADERS NETWORK

simply shared the stories they heard, we could increase the reach and the impact JVS has in the community,” said Matt Winnick, JVS board member and co-founder of the Young Leadership Network. “Guests were amazed to learn about the breadth of what JVS does, and many have committed to stay connected.”

Event sponsors included Bob Gail Special Events, Qualified Billing

& Collections, Tito's Handmade Vodka, 90H2O Water, Diablo Pops, Calligraphy Katrina, Pressed Juicery, BuzzBar and Santo Nuvola Wine. Despite the unseasonal rain that day, the party was a shining success.

The YLN will nominate and help select the next recipient of the JVS Young Leader Award that will be presented at the next Strictly Business L.A. Awards Luncheon May 12, 2016.



JVS CEO Vivian Seigel with YLN Co-Chairs Steve Seigel and Matt Winnick at the inaugural Garden Party.

JVS WORKS: CREATING NEW BEGINNINGS

HEALTHWORKS™ PARTNERS WITH THE ANNENBERG SCHOOL OF NURSING



HealthWorks graduates about to launch their new careers.

JVSLA's HealthWorks™ Program, which trains job seekers to be Certified Nurse Assistants (CNAs), hosted a graduation in October in partnership with the Annenberg School of Nursing at the Jewish Home in Reseda.

Thanks to the generous support of JVS donors, the program is offered at no cost to eligible applicants. Carefully pre-screened, they must complete six weeks of comprehensive preparation combining classroom instruction and clinical work in order to pass the state certification exam and launch their health care careers.

The majority of the trainees are economically disadvantaged with multiple obstacles to employment. Past graduates have faced chronic poverty and even homelessness, have been raised in the foster care system, are refugees or immigrants or are struggling as single parents.

Program graduate Ruby Navarro shared her moving success story and recruiters from Belmont Village, Dynamic Nursing and Sunrise Senior Living were among the employers who participated in the job fair following the ceremony, ready to interview and recruit graduates for open positions.

To date, the program has seen 95% of its students pass the State Certification exam, with 85% finding jobs within the first six months of employment. Participants receive case management support throughout the program, which has contributed to the impressive level of student success.

APARTMENTWORKS™ OPENS THE DOOR FOR AN ARMY VET

In partnership with the National Apartment Association, JVS ApartmentWorks™ offers a nationally recognized training course for apartment maintenance technicians in the rapidly growing industry. Like all of the JVS Works programs, tuition costs are underwritten by donors, offering eligible job seekers comprehensive support and job placement assistance to begin their careers.

Army veteran Roland Williams had just graduated from ApartmentWorks when

he revealed to the staff that he had been living in a storage unit to avoid sleeping on the street. They referred him immediately to the agency's Veterans First team for assistance. Not only was Roland provided with interview clothing, an MTA bus pass and gift cards for food, he was placed in transitional housing at the Salvation Army facility in Bell, thanks to JVS' network of community partners. Today he is employed at Avalon Bay Apartments as a Commercial Maintenance Technician and says,



Instructor Jonathan Quach, graduate Roland Williams, Coordinator Denise Silva and Avalon Bay recruiter John Smith.

“Thank you JVS for all your help. I hope I can pay it back one day. You helped me more than I can imagine and I could have not done it without you.”

BANKWORK\$®

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The JVS WorkS™ programs are currently comprised of BankWork\$, HealthWorks and ApartmentWorks and together they clearly illustrate the JVS Multiplier Effect. In 2014, the average \$4,000 investment to recruit, train and place a student in one of these programs produced a social return on investment (SROI) of greater than 8 to 1, as the 186 JVS Works graduates who were placed in jobs earned an average of \$34,000 per year in salary and benefits – with their aggregate annual earnings reaching \$6.1 million.



Bank recruiters meet the new graduates.

JVS Veterans First recently launched a brand new program called Vets In Tech, funded by a grant from The California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF).

Working with local community colleges, specialized post-secondary schools and employers, Vets In Tech will assist qualified veterans in accessing training and obtaining industry certifications in the areas of web support, database administration, software and app development, as well as test preparation for CompTIA A+ and Network+ certifications.



“The goal of the program is to get veterans and their family members into the growing information technology or telecommunications industry,” said Alicia Baker, Program Coordinator for Vets In Tech. “We have many vets with military experience in technology, who lack the required certifications or need guidance in entering the civilian tech industry.”

POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE IN PACOIMA

This past August a special culmination event for students in the JVS Youth Services program included plenty of pomp and circumstance. Seven JVS youth clients enjoyed a summer graduation celebration to recognize their achievements in completing a vocational training program or post-secondary level of schooling.

“JVS has a lot of opportunities,” said Liliana, one of the graduates. “I was a high school dropout, and JVS helped me earn my diploma, and then they helped me find a training program. So now I am a medical assistant and a high school graduate.”

The event, held at the Northeast San Fernando Valley WorkSource Center – part of the America’s Job Center Network – included a cap and gown celebration and remarks from Yolanda Fuentes-Miranda, District Director for Los Angeles City Councilmember Felipe Fuentes, who gave the graduates a certificate of recognition. Over 50 friends and family members attended to celebrate the accomplishments of these young men and women.

“Although they come from challenging backgrounds and face many barriers, JVS Youth Services graduates get the ongoing support they need



Marguerite Womack, Liliana Tellez, Yolanda Fuentes-Miranda and JVS COO Claudia Finkel.

to accomplish both personal and professional goals,” said Marguerite Womack, JVS Director of Workforce Development. “The culmination was our gift to them. We wanted them to know we have great expectations for their future.”

WLN 3RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE LIVING YOUR AUTHENTIC LIFE

Continued From Page 1

In a welcome speech, Event Chairs Debbie Powell and Judy Rosenberg thanked Vice Chair Lucille Shalometh-Goldin and shared the mission of the conference: to create a forum to educate and uplift, while generating funds to support women who are receiving help from JVS.



abuse survivor, who received the support she needed from multiple JVS job training and mentoring programs to land her dream job at Wells Fargo. "Success happens when opportunity meets preparation and because of JVS," she said, "I was ready when my moment came."

The conference featured four highly accomplished speakers who shared their personal and professional journeys to success. Dr. Kristi Funk, a renowned surgeon and co-founder of the Pink Lotus Breast Center, delivered an electrifying presentation, empowering women to make the choices that can positively impact their health. Assistant Chief of Airport Police Ethel McGuire shared her struggle to balance the demands of her distinguished 23-year career in the FBI while maintaining her marriage and raising her two young daughters long distance. She reminded attendees, "Strength doesn't come from what you do; it comes from overcoming what you couldn't do." She received a standing ovation as her two daughters, one an FBI agent and the other an attorney, joined her onstage.

Emmy-Award winning choreographer Anita Mann shared the behind the scenes story of her journey in the male-dominated entertainment industry. She was joined by veteran dancer Cooley Jackson, whose performance brought the crowd to their feet. Heather Thomson, designer and founder of the popular Yummie fashion brand and cast member of Bravo's "Real Housewives of New York," concluded with her own words of wisdom: "Without risk there is no reward, so when given an opportunity you have to take the chance."

The audience was deeply moved by Paula Stern, whose daughter, an Army veteran, benefited from the JVS Veterans First and WoMentoring programs, which helped her transition back to civilian life; Felicia Cates, a JVS HealthWorks™ graduate who was raised in foster care and now works at Cedars Sinai; and Deborah Smith, a domestic

JVS Board Officer and WLN Co-Founder Eileen Coskey Fracchia shared her personal story of survival and motivated attendees to continue their support for the WLN. That evening, conference guests were invited to a reception and shopping event featuring Heather Thomson and hosted by event sponsor Bloomingdale's at their Century City store to benefit JVS programs supported by the WLN.

DODGERS TRIP AROUND THE DIAMOND IS A GRAND SLAM FOR JVS



JVS received a generous donation of \$32,000 from Daniel's Jewelers, thanks to the Howard and Stephanie Sherwood Foundation. The check presentation took place on the Dodger field with JVS Board President Jim Hausberg and Eduardo Antonio Lopez, who came to JVS unemployed and struggling to pay rent and support his baby daughter. Thanks to the JVS Youth Program and Eduardo's hard work and persistence, today he has a full-time job and is providing for his family.

JVS BOARD MEMBERS & DONORS

STEP UP

When Board Treasurer Harris Smith recently referred to JVS as “a transformative agent in the greater Los Angeles area,” he was speaking from first-hand knowledge. A CPA and partner at Grant Thornton LLP, Smith sent colleagues from his firm to conduct mock interviews of the recent HealthWorks graduating class, taking the role of recruiters and later providing feedback. Smith also accompanied Board President Jimmy Hausberg and JVS COO Claudia Finkel to the JVS Palmdale GAIN office to attend the graduation of 18 clients – including seven JVS Veterans First clients – from their commercial truck driver training. “It is not possible to fully understand what JVS does unless you



Grant Thornton team provides interview training to HealthWorks students before their graduation.

see it first hand and talk to our clients,” said Smith. “I believe it is vitally important to be an ambassador of JVS and to spread the word to others who can join us.”

Last May, JVS Board Member Steven Moritz of Sotheby’s International invited colleague Ari Wintraub to the Strictly Business Luncheon. “For me, personally, what made sense during the luncheon was the Multiplier Effect and how investing in one person can empower that person, change the economy and help the city as a whole,” Wintraub said. Along with Bruno Abisor, another young Sotheby’s colleague, he helped raised over \$2,600 to benefit JVS at the inaugural Sotheby’s charity tennis tournament, which included agents from all Southern California Sotheby offices. “As real estate agents, we are in direct communication with people who want to know all about Los Angeles and what it has to offer,” said Moritz. “By exposing agents to JVS, they can share with their clients what they know about this great organization and how it’s helping our city become a better place. It was a natural fit.”

IN OUR OPINION



Vivian Seigel
CEO

Jim Hausberg
President

It is a continuous source of pride that despite the ongoing challenges we face, JVS continues to operate a slate of successful programs. These include our award-winning JVS Works job training programs, Veterans First, WoMentoring, Scholarship and Youth Services and many others, with new initiatives continuously in the pipeline.

Fred Ali, President and CEO of Weingart Foundation, who recently addressed the JVS Board, was spot on in his assessment that regulations regarding the funding of nonprofits are in drastic need of a paradigmatic shift. “We know that nonprofit performance is often held back by the rules and practices of funders. This includes restrictions on supporting multi-year unrestricted funding, and limitations on supporting necessary administrative costs,” Ali said, calling this “an issue that has for too long undermined nonprofit effectiveness and sustainability, at the expense of underserved individuals and communities.”

We applaud Fred for making such an eloquent case and are hopeful, as is he, that initiatives like The CalNonprofits-led Nonprofit Overhead Project and The Real Cost Project will make a difference in the ability of JVS and our fellow nonprofits to make meaningful impacts on the lives of our clients.

As you read this newsletter and learn the most up-to-date news of many of our agency’s signature programs, we hope you will both share our pride and consider ways to help us continue the life-changing work we do. Whether by volunteering, becoming a program sponsor or spreading the word about JVS, you can help us make a difference. One person. One family. One job at a time.

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JVS At Work

Fall Newsletter 2015

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This Holiday Season
Your Presence Is **Not** Requested

The 2015 JVS Stay-At-Home Gala