



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023

COMING TOGETHER

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Courtney Hall

Dear Friend:

Somehow, this year continues to fly by, and we are already nearing the colder months again. This has been a year of so much growth, community, change, and at times hardship for our neighbors. As I reflect on what 2023 has brought us so far, I am inspired by the fortitude of our clients, our staff, and our community. The challenges continue and sometimes feel insurmountable, but here we all are, continuing to support one another through every turn.

Earlier this month we were pleased to welcome nearly 100 community partners, neighbors, staff, volunteers, and donors to our Rollins Avenue Open House. In addition to being home to our administrative, operations, finance, development, and communications teams, it is the new permanent location of our Vocational Services Program (VSP). The new VSP facility at Rollins Avenue includes space for meetings and mock interviews with clients, strategy sessions for the VSP team, and a new Computer Lab for client training, online interviews, and job applications.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

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Get to Know IW Vocational Services!

With Axel Lara - VSP Bilingual Case Manager

Q: What is the Vocational Services Program?

A: Vocational Services Program (VSP) is a program that helps our clients find employment and training opportunities within Montgomery County. We offer mock interview practices to prepare clients for job interviews and we partner with the IW Essential Needs Center "Prepare to Impress" store to help clients shop for professional clothing so they can go into their interviews feeling confident. We aid with resume building and helping clients fill out their applications. Our clients without access to internet or a computer can come into our onsite computer lab and complete any applications or paperwork to help them obtain interviews, trainings and fill out applications. We help many different people in several different demographics to prepare for and obtain necessary training and employment opportunities.

Q: Why is this program so necessary for our community?

A: There are many of our neighbors who are unable to obtain job opportunities by themselves. They might have been looking for a job for a long time without assistance but having a helping hand to guide them during this process can better equip them for employment. This also helps clients receive any additional training they need like an ESOL class so they can use those skills as an employee. These trainings are all paid for by VSP, and clients receive a \$15 per hour stipend for attending the trainings so they can be accessible to our clients without putting a financial burden on them.

Interfaith Works Vocational Services Program



The Interfaith Works Vocational Services Program supports and empowers those who are underemployed or unemployed to develop life and career skills for long-term self-sufficiency.



The IW Vocational Services Program placed **96% of clients** actively looking for jobs in FY23. The program placed 46 of those clients at new FY23 employers.



In FY23, the IW Vocational Services Program launched a Paid Training Program, helping **114 clients** obtaining a vocational certificate.

[Read More Here!](#)

**101
Clients**

FY23 data



BY THE NUMBERS

In FY 23, 101 clients found gainful employment with help from the IW Vocational Services Program.

GRATITUDE

IW Rollins Office Open House

On Thursday, October 11, IW was pleased to welcome nearly 100 community partners, neighbors, staff, volunteers, and donors to our new main office at 981 Rollins Avenue in Rockville. In addition to being home to our administrative, operations, finance, development, and communications team, it is the new permanent location of our Vocational Services Program (VSP). Each year, our Vocational Services Program serves more than 260 clients who are looking for sustainable jobs. The new VSP facility at Rollins Avenue includes space for meetings and mock interviews with clients, strategy sessions for the VSP team, and a new Computer Lab for client training, online interviews, and job applications.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



New Leaf Shelter Parking Lot Pumpkin Party!



On October 21, IW New Leaf Shelter hosted their 1st annual Parking Lot Pumpkin Party! Community members and clients came together to learn about community partners and received resources, food, and some fun treats.

Thank you to everyone who attended and made this event so special for our clients and neighbors.

Thank You for Sharing the Magic of Giving

Thank you to everyone who helped us gear up for the holiday season by contributing to the "Share the Magic of Giving" campaign - tailored to benefit the families and children in our Community Supportive Housing (CSH) program.

Thanks to your support, we were able to raise nearly \$15,000 to purchase gift cards for families in the CSH program. We could not have done it without all of you!



EVENTS



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

SAVE THE DATE! **NOVEMBER COMMUNITY CONVERSATION:** ***ADVOCATING FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS***

Join us on Thursday, November 16, from 7-9pm for an in-person panel discussion at the Mid-County Regional Service Center.

Event Address:
2425 Reddie Drive, Wheaton, MD 20902

IW will be participating in Giving Tuesday on November 28!

GIVING TUESDAY

This is a day of global generosity and a celebration of doing good for our neighbors. All donations collected on Giving Tuesday will support the IW Future Fund.

The Future Fund is reserved funding to help our clients bridge financial gaps to meet their essential needs and goals. Clients work with their case managers and IW staff to apply for these funds.

The Future Fund assists our clients with things like covering necessary medical costs, assistance with emergency expenses, and acquiring vital documentation; these often are barriers prohibiting our clients from thriving. The IW Future Fund is a vital step in helping our clients meet those critical needs so they can move forward on their own pathway to stability.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!

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