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INSIDE JEVS

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JEVS Human Services

Making hope happen.



JONATHAN, with help from the Northeast EARN Center, found his first stable job at Allied Barton Security Services.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



LOST IN THE IMPORTANT DEBATE about how to energize the national economy and put people back to work is the reality that, while the professional class has suffered more than is typical during this recession, the sting of the economic downturn has been felt more keenly by those with lesser levels of education and skills. According to the United States Bureau of

Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate in 2010 for those with less than a high school diploma was almost twice that of people with even minimal training beyond high school.

JEVS Human Services has long recognized the correlation between solid skills training and individual success in the workplace. As a public policy issue, we have also promoted a skilled workforce as necessary for the collective health of the economy. This issue of *Inside JEVS* highlights the paradox of the "skills gap" in today's labor market: despite record unemployment, some industries report difficulty finding qualified applicants to fill skilled positions. Our recommendations to Governor Corbett and his team in Harrisburg, as they work to revive Pennsylvania's economy, center on how best to assist those who do not find easy access to the workforce. Since research suggests that the skills gap stifles efforts to lower the unemployment rate, workforce policies that help resolve this issue provide a rare "win-win" for policymakers, employers, and job seekers in Pennsylvania.

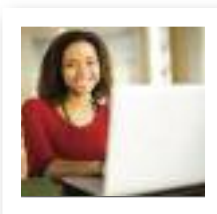
JAY SPECTOR | JEVS PRESIDENT & CEO

Gateway Project Delivers Online Information on Healthcare Jobs

JEVS Human Services is one of nine International Association of Jewish Vocational Services (IAJVS) agencies participating in the Gateway Project, a national program funded by the Department of Labor. The Gateway Project is designed to increase community access to jobs in the healthcare industry through easy-to-use online career exploration. The project's interactive web-based vocational resources, Job Seekers Guide and Healthcare Virtual Career Platform (HVCP), will also help to improve participants' computer literacy.

[For more information > 215.854.1852](tel:215.854.1852)

Discover Career Planning Solutions at VRI's Newly Revamped Website



Vocational Research Institute (VRI), a social enterprise of JEVS Human Services, offers a range of career assessment and planning tools for schools, workforce programs, correctional facilities, and rehabilitation programs throughout the country. Its flagship product, CareerScope®, enhances the career exploration

and educational planning process by helping individuals identify their interests and aptitudes and the jobs that best put these strengths to use. For details on VRI's products, visit their new and informative website at www.vri.org.

[For more information > 800.874.5387](tel:800.874.5387)



Building Skills for the 21st Century:

A Workforce Development

Agenda for Pennsylvania's

New Governor

With the nation showing only faint signs of recovery from the Great Recession, talk of job creation and economic growth dominated the fall 2010 election campaigns. In Pennsylvania, incoming Governor Tom Corbett understands that with over half of a million citizens out of work, he will be expected to move quickly to turn the Commonwealth's economy around. Reducing unemployment, however, is not the only challenge facing Pennsylvania's economy in the coming years. Approximately one million Pennsylvanians *with jobs* still earn less than a family-sustaining wage.¹ At the same time, employers are concerned that the workforce of the future may lack the necessary skills to compete for the types of jobs that predominate in the 21st century economy.

Each year, Pennsylvania allocates funds to several state agencies to support workforce development programs. Changes in the national economy are challenging policymakers and employment service providers like JEVS Human Services to come up with new ideas and approaches. The relationship between skills-building and economic self-sufficiency is the mainstay for JEVS' employment and training programs, which offer career development services to a variety of individuals, including the unemployed, underemployed, disabled veterans, out-of-school youth, refugees, and people transitioning from welfare to work.

JEVS' clients are representative of job seekers across Pennsylvania; they enter the public workforce development system through a number of different doors and may face multiple barriers to finding family-sustaining employment, including educational or skills limitations, language barriers, a limited or unstable work history, or a criminal conviction. There is no generic approach that can effectively serve this range of clients and simultaneously address the constantly evolving needs of employers in a changing economy.

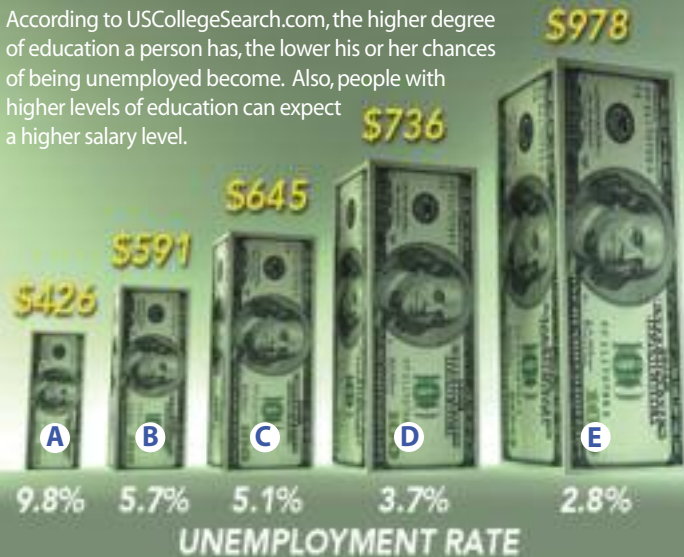
Moving Ahead: A Workforce Policy Framework for Pennsylvania

During the campaign, Governor Corbett put forth his plan for developing a highly skilled workforce in Pennsylvania.² As the new administration moved through its transition period, JEVS and other stakeholders in the workforce development community offered these recommendations for how best to implement that strategy:

- **Integrate training and ancillary services.** Job seekers generally require a combination of basic education, skills training, and support services in order to succeed in the workplace. For these interventions to be effective, they must be accessible to participants and delivered in coordination with one another.
- **Support changes in the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program** that would allow service providers and participants to focus less on administrative requirements and more on activities (including comprehensive education and training) that reduce barriers to employment. Emphasize long-term measures of employment and economic self-sufficiency rather than short-term job placement.

EDUCATION PAYS *Average Weekly Salaries*

According to USCollegeSearch.com, the higher degree of education a person has, the lower his or her chances of being unemployed become. Also, people with higher levels of education can expect a higher salary level.



- A. Less than a High School Diploma:** The average person who has not earned his/her high school diploma can expect a weekly salary level of \$426, and an unemployment rate of 9.8 percent.
- B. High School Graduate:** The average high school graduate can expect a weekly salary level of \$591, and an unemployment rate of 5.7 percent.
- C. Some College, No Degree:** The average person who has attended some college, but has not earned a degree, can expect a weekly salary level of \$645, and an unemployment rate of 5.1 percent.
- D. Associate's Degree:** The average person who has earned their Associate's degree can expect a weekly salary level of \$736, and an unemployment rate of 3.7 percent.
- E. Bachelor's Degree:** The average person who has earned their Bachelor's degree can expect a weekly salary level of \$978, and an unemployment rate of 2.8 percent.

- **Restore funding for adult education and literacy programs** to pre-recession levels. Research demonstrates that investment in contextualized literacy—instruction that mirrors the use of knowledge and skills in the workplace—yields a high return in terms of lifetime earnings.
- **Promote industry-led training efforts.** Industry partnerships, which bring together regional employers, training providers, and job seekers to identify and fill skill gaps in the local workforce, have produced strong results for both employees and businesses. Governor Corbett should support legislation that would create and fund a permanent industry partnership program in Pennsylvania.

Putting Pennsylvanians back to work is a function not only of job creation and economic growth, but of aligning job seekers' skills with the talent needs of employers. Consensus solutions to joblessness and the looming skills gap can help all citizens benefit from Pennsylvania's return to good economic health.

 [For more information](#)

Public Policy Department / 215.854.1869

¹ A family-sustaining wage is the amount of earnings a family requires for self-sufficiency, the ability to meet basic needs without private or public assistance. Developed by Wider Opportunities for Women www.wowonline.org.

² <http://www.tomcorbettforgovernor.com/issues/workforce-development/>



announcement

Workshop Spotlights Value of Volunteering

JEVS Career Strategies continues to host unique employment-related workshops, including the recent *Give Back to Get Ahead*. Attendees learned how participating in volunteer work while they are searching for a job can be helpful. Guest speakers described how their own volunteering experience helped them find employment and create potential opportunities.

For more information 215.854.1874



did you know?

Internship Program for the College-Bound

The Lasko College Prep Program offered by **JEVS Career Strategies Youth Services** may be ideal for a teen you know. Jewish high school juniors may receive a paid summer internship, SAT/ACT tutoring, college guidance, financial aid counseling, and more invaluable opportunities throughout his or her senior year. Applications can be downloaded from www.jevs.org.

For more information 215.854.1834

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT



The **Northeast EARN Center** continues to help clients learn new skills through the Paid Work Experience (PWE) program, which allows them to "intern" for two weeks at a job. The program has been successful for both clients and employers. Clients learn and perfect skills while on-the-job, and employers determine if clients are a good fit before hiring them. One employer benefiting from PWE is Tate and Kirilin Associates, who has hired thirty new employees through the program since September 2010. So far, the retention rate is 90 percent. Tate and Kirilin are so pleased with the results from this program that they now go to the EARN Center first for their employment needs.

FUNDING *the* VISION

NEWS FROM

JEVS Business and Fund Development Department

To support JEVS' programs, scholarships, and fund-raising campaigns, contact us at 215.854.1827, supportjevs@jevs.org, or use the online donation form on our website at www.jevshumanservices.org.



JEVS Receives Grant to Help Veterans Reenter Workforce

"PREP4Success" Helps Boys and Girls Plan Their Futures

In an effort to reduce the risky behavior and increase the success rate of Philadelphia's most vulnerable teens, **JEVS Career Strategies Youth Services** is helping the Boys and Girls Clubs of Philadelphia in their mission to "enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens." The result is **PREP4Success**, a program funded by a grant from the Five Together Foundation to help club members plan their future after high school.

Individual assessments are the backbone of the program. Each student meets with a JEVS educational counselor who will listen to his or her needs and goals and ensure that they are truly heard. Counselors also work with each Student Support Team, which includes his or her parent(s), grandparents(s) or guardians(s). The goal is to learn what direction will work best for each student after high school—college, trade school or the workforce. Once the best route for students has been determined, the counselors help them move along their chosen path.

Students who desire a college education receive free SAT/ACT preparation and college admissions and financial aid counseling from JEVS. Trade school prospects will receive one-on-one trade school counseling and tour JEVS' Orleans Technical Institute. Individuals who want to go directly into the workforce will receive one-on-one career counseling and job placement assistance.

 [For more information](mailto:info@jevs.org) > 215.854.1864

JEVs Human Services was recently awarded \$400,000 from the Kessler Foundation for "Project Connect," a two-year job reentry program for veterans with mobility disabilities and cognitive impairments. Project Connect will help veterans with disabilities resulting from service in the Global War on Terror to successfully return to meaningful employment in the civilian world. Project Connect is a partnership between JEVS, Tip of the Arrow, a respected veterans' transition support organization, JVS MetroWest in New Jersey, and military personnel at Fort Dix.

Wounded veterans face numerous challenges to reintegrating into the civilian workforce. The average age of Global War on Terror veterans is 32 years (for active duty) and 37 years (for reserve guards), the prime of their income-earning lives. Without coordinated, expert intervention and support, disabled veterans are at particular risk for depression and long-term unemployment. Through Project Connect, we will help wounded veterans to navigate and overcome obstacles to finding meaningful work. This grant can help reduce the economic and personal costs that result from high unemployment among veterans with disabilities.

Case for Giving

Helping JEVS to Navigate Turbulent Times

"Anticipate charity by preventing poverty; assist the fellow man...by teaching him a trade or by putting him in the way of business so that he may earn an honest livelihood, and not be forced to the alternative of holding out his hand for charity".

— MAIMONIDES
(JEWISH PHILOSOPHER 1135-1204)

Seventy years ago, JEVS Human Services was founded to serve displaced Jewish refugees. As JEVS grew and evolved, its commitment to the community was expanded by helping all people achieve self-sufficiency. Although JEVS has grown exponentially, it has not wavered from its core Jewish values.

Our recently completed case for giving focuses on four areas of need that are central to JEVS' mission and the Jewish values upon which we were founded. These include: **economic self-**

sufficiency, promoting independence, school-to-life transitions, and capital improvements.

JEVS programs that promote economic self-sufficiency include supports for career services and trainings that help meet the growing needs of our unemployed and underemployed clients. Dollars raised in the areas of promoting independence allows JEVS to maintain the quality and innovation of our programs for our clients with disabilities. Support in the areas of

Honor Roll of Donors

The following is a list of individual, corporate and foundation donors who supported our programs through our campaigns from April 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010. Individual donors supported: The Friends Campaign, Board of Directors Campaign, JEVS Scholarship Fund, Facilities Improvement Fund, The Franklin C. Ash Scholarship Fund, and the Isabelle Schneider Life Enrichment Fund.

This list does not include sponsors of Strictly Business 2010, which were listed in our Fall 2010 edition. List may be incomplete. JEVS apologizes for any inadvertent errors or omissions.

school-to-life transitions allows JEVS to provide a “guiding hand” towards successful change for students transitioning from school to school, school to work and school to life. Finally, our capital needs include responsibility for 34 community homes and four buildings. These facilities are in need of ongoing improvements so that they remain safe, functional, and attractive places for those we serve. These areas of focus allow us to further our mission of *making hope happen*.

Please consider the many ways, both financial and other, to become a partner in our important work:

- **Make a Donation:** Contribute to JEVS’ overall operations and success.
- **Planned Giving:** Designate JEVS Human Services as a beneficiary in your will.
- **Gifts of Stock:** Donate stock, real estate, or other property and invest in the future of JEVS Human Services.
- **Volunteer:** Donate your time to make a difference in the lives of others. For volunteer opportunities email volunteer@jevs.org.
- **Become a corporate partner:** A committed group of powerful leadership opening doors for increased employment opportunities for JEVS clients.
- **Hire from JEVS:** JEVS provides employers with opportunities to recruit, interview, and hire workers in a variety of fields. In most cases, our candidates are trained with specific skills to help you improve your bottom line. In all cases, our candidates are hardworking and motivated and our placement services are always provided at no cost to employers.

To make a donation, please contact Katherine Shinholster at 215.854.1827 or katherine.shinholster@jevs.org.

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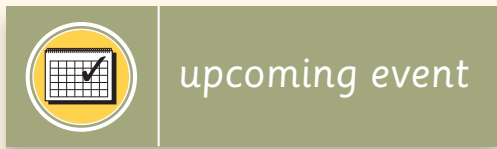
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Celebrating 70 years of Making Hope Happen!
Save the Date for a special evening commemorating our 70th anniversary and honoring our Past Presidents.

Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.
National Museum of American Jewish History

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Katherine Shinholster at katherine.shinholster@jevs.org or 215.854.1827



United Way
of Southeastern Pennsylvania



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One People ■ One Community ■ One Federation™

JEVS partners with the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia and the United Way of Southeastern PA.

The official registration and financial information of JEVS Human Services may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Making Hope Happen for Stephanie

Her Life is an Inspiration to Fellow Émigrés

When Stephanie Marcel came to the United States she spoke little English, had no job and no money, and was living with her two young children in a studio apartment. A native Haitian, she felt isolated and found it difficult to function in the English-speaking world—until she walked through the doors of **JEVS Northeast EARN Center** in 2009.

Before immigrating to the United States, Stephanie had been a certified nursing assistant. Her accreditation didn't transfer to the United States, so she was working a minimum wage job. Overworked and underpaid, she was laid off and could not find another job. Stephanie was referred to the EARN Center where she attended ESL (English as a Second Language) classes provided by District 1199C, an agency that provides a range of educational services including GED (General Education Development) classes. Her teacher also helped her improve her math skills and study for the U.S.

Citizenship Test. EARN staff helped her find assistance with child care, transportation, and education, enabling her to concentrate on learning the language and finding work.

On January 12, 2010, not long after Stephanie came to the EARN Center, a horrific earthquake hit Haiti. Naomi Rosenberg, Director of the Right to Health



OVERCOMING OBSTACLES TO HELP OTHERS

When Stephanie Marcel (pictured with her daughter Ludgena) was unemployed, she found job search assistance, English classes, and emotional support at JEVS Northeast EARN Center. Now she is a self-sufficient medical aide, friend, and inspiration to survivors of the Haitian earthquake.

Stephanie's job with Partners in Health has helped her become self-sufficient and more confident. She and her children now live in a larger apartment, and she plans to go back to school to learn more English and earn certification as a nurse or medical assistant in the United States. "I'm very, very happy. My life has changed. Before, I had a bad life, but now my life is new."

"It was very clear that JEVS' EARN Center gave Stephanie the effective support she needed—not only to find a job with us but also to keep it."

— NAOMI ROSENBERG
DIRECTOR, RIGHT TO
HEALTH PROGRAM
PARTNERS IN HEALTH

Program at Partners in Health, immediately flew to Haiti and brought back a small group of seriously injured people. They were hospitalized, then moved into a house in Germantown, Philadelphia where they could continue to live together and receive medical care. Rosenberg needed someone to provide nursing care and support, and she knew JEVS could provide her with a quality employee. Stephanie was perfect for the job. Not only did she understand the language and culture but she had the necessary medical background.

Rosenberg says, "Stephanie doesn't just do tasks you give her, but is always looking for what more she can do. She is still connected to Haiti and understands what it's like to be far from home." Stephanie often takes her patients to the park, the movies—anything to help them get their minds off their problems. The adults are taking ESL classes, so Stephanie uses her knowledge of English to help them practice. Resident Losanna Hyacinthe says, "She helps me with writing, reading... everything!"

On March 31, 2010, Stephanie passed the U.S. Citizenship Test and was sworn in as a citizen two weeks later. Stephanie went on to win the 2010 Governor's Achievement Award and 2010 JEVS Inspiration Award. "The families see Stephanie as someone who has come here and not only made a life, but has grown professionally," says Rosenberg.

 *For more information*

Northeast EARN Center / 267.350.8500

JEVS Provides Safety Net for Young Adults Transitioning from Foster Care

Megan grew up in foster care and as a teenager lived mainly in institutional settings. When she legally became an adult at 18 and was transitioning out of services for youth, she had no family support, nor did she have the skills to live independently.

In 2009, **JEVS Community Living and Home Supports (CLHS)** began a partnership with the Philadelphia Department of Human Services to provide Life Sharing arrangements for transitioning young adults who have an intellectual disability. Megan was one of the first of six young adults to live in JEVS Life Sharing. While there, she gained a sense of stability in her life. Through **JEVS Work and Recovery Programs**, she found employment working nights at a nursing home. She would like to become a certified nursing assistant.

“If Megan had been discharged without support, she would have ended up homeless like so many other young people when they age out of foster care,” emphasizes Kati Brandt, a JEVS program manager.

When Megan turned 21, she was still not yet ready to live independently. Nonetheless, her contract with DHS was ending. JEVS was able to advocate and secure the support she needs from Community Behavioral Health. Megan moved into her own apartment last November and continues to work full time.

“Megan never shopped for her own groceries before,” explains Kati. “Now each week, she receives training in life skills like grocery shopping. She is learning to budget and plan her meals so that she can become more independent.”



BECOMING INDEPENDENT

“JEVS helps me,” explains Megan. “They are not holding my hand, but they are standing behind me. This is one of the biggest steps that I have made in my life. I feel empowered and, for once, I feel normal.”

 [For more information](#)

[Community Living & Home Supports \(CLHS\) / 267.350.8600](#)

In the Spotlight: Volunteer English Teacher Harriet Lynn



“If you volunteer at the same place you worked, doing the same job, you must really love it!” says Harriet Lynn, a **JEVS Center for New Americans (CNA)** volunteer. Harriet taught ESL classes for 35 years at the center, then continued to volunteer her time after she retired. Last

year she spent 100 hours teaching English to refugees and asylees.

At a time when budgets are stretched extremely thin, CNA's eight volunteers are a very important part of the program's resources, logging a combined total of 1,590 hours—almost one full-time staff member's

hours—over the past year. One teacher on staff plans all the work for the volunteers and groups participants according to their skill level; some are very advanced, while others are truly illiterate. Center for New Americans director Zoya Kravets says Harriet was the first English teacher in America for many Russians, their “light in the dark world of the unknown. A lot of people keep her name in their hearts.”

Harriet believes that anyone who can speak English can be an ESL teacher. “Your presence is more important than anything else. It's a very satisfying profession and you get an instant reward from it.”

 [For more information > 215.728.4210](#)



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**INSIDE
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JEVS Human Services
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in this issue...

Our Vision

Individuals strengthen communities by realizing their highest quality of life through the achievement of personal and vocational potential.

Our Mission

JEVS Human Services enhances the employability, independence, and quality of life of individuals through a broad range of programs. Consistent with our core principles and entrepreneurial spirit, JEVS Human Services creates innovative and sustainable solutions to address current and future community needs.

Our Programs

SKILLS TRAINING
JOB READINESS AND CAREER SERVICES

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
RECOVERY SERVICES

ADULT RESIDENTIAL AND DAY SERVICES
IN-HOME PERSONAL ASSISTANCE

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