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As a registered 501(c)3, Jacob's Ladder Job Center, Inc. is the only organization that provides a daily, month-long job readiness program in the Charlotte community.

100% of contributions remain right here in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

WINTER 2011

Our mission is to help unemployed and underemployed individuals find and keep living wage jobs.

Winner's Circle Dealt Great Hand for Jacob's Ladder



More than 220 people joined us for a fun Casino Night at our inaugural Winner's Circle event to celebrate our 13th anniversary and raise funds to support our programs and services. We'd like to give special thanks to board members Vincent Davis, Charlie Culbreth, & Tony Perez for their support. We would also like to thank Sara Bradley and her team of volunteers for all their help and hard work in organizing the fabulous evening which included great food, gaming tables and fabulous auction items including: a beach house rental in Costa Rica, an America's Cup Stars & Stripes Adventure and a trip to Los Angeles with a 45-minute ride in a Fighter Jet.

Several other individuals and businesses went above and beyond to support us. We'd like to recognize Niki Allen and Founders Hall for providing us with such a wonderful venue and former radio personality Sander Walker of Walker PR Group for serving as our emcee and DJ. Hats off to all of our sponsors: Alston & Bird, LLP, Piedmont Natural Gas, Wells Fargo, Bryan Cave, Gensler, Lincoln Harris, Tannery Brook Partners, Cazenovia Creek, Winstead Attorneys, Boingo Graphics and Kind Beers. Through your generosity we raised \$30,000 that will go towards job-readiness and training programs for our clients.



From left to right: Jeff Jones (Jacob's Ladder board chair), Tim Graham (Jacob's Ladder graduate), Charlie Culbreth (Wells Fargo, Jacob's Ladder Board Member) and Paul Donohue (Alston & Bird) at the Jacob's Ladder Winner's Circle event at Founder's Hall.

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Client Spotlight: Tim Bell Chimes with Inspiration

Jacob's Ladder graduate Tim Bell's story is one of second chances, persistence and inspiration. A native of Charlotte, Tim held a few small jobs as a teenager and then at 19 years old was incarcerated. After 17 years in prison, he was released on January 3, 2011 and spent months looking for a job. He thought he knew it all and did his job search his own way. Even though he took job preparation classes while incarcerated, his job search approach was not working – the biggest challenge was explaining his background.



Says Tim Bell, "The people [staff and volunteers] at Jacob's Ladder cared about me so much and wouldn't let me be the angry individual I was when I first started the program. They embraced me with everything and gave me so much love."

He was on the verge of giving up, unable to find a job and constantly being turned down. His confidence was depleting and he was feeling as though there was no use in continuing to look for employment. Tim heard of Jacob's Ladder through a friend and enrolled in the August class. He was determined to complete the four-week program where he learned how to communicate with an interviewer, properly fill out applications, how to dress and how to best explain his background. He started to apply the things he was being taught and as a result of his persistence, he was able to acquire two jobs, one of which he landed on graduation day. Today, Tim is working at the TJ Maxx Distribution Center and often visits Jacob's Ladder where he speaks to clients and shares his story. His experience has become a great inspiration to other Jacob's Ladder clients because if finding a job can happen for him, it can happen for them.

Volunteer Spotlight: Jeanne Evans

Jeanne Evans began volunteering for Jacobs' Ladder last April after hearing about us through The Charlotte Observer. She worked for more than 20 years at Wells Fargo and brings a wealth of skills to our organization. Her dedication and loyalty goes above and beyond in supporting our programs and clients. "The results achieved at Jacob's Ladder are so impressive. It's a joy and a privilege to contribute to that effort through volunteering," said Jeanne who lives in Charlotte with her husband John and whose son attends UNC Chapel Hill.



Jacob's Ladder Board Grows

Join us in welcoming Charlie Culbreth to the Jacob's Ladder Board of Directors. A 25-year banking veteran, Charlie is an Executive Vice President and Head of Structured Asset Management within Wells Fargo's Commercial Mortgage Servicing business. He earned a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Georgia and a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Flagler College. He and his wife live in Charlotte and have two children.



(Charles Culbreth)

Jacob's Ladder Teams up with The Harvest Center

We are proud to be partnering with The Harvest Center of Charlotte – a homeless ministry that also serves several meals per week and provides a food pantry. Beginning this January, a group of Harvest Center guests will be offered the opportunity to participate in a job readiness preview.



(Derek Miller)

Derrick Miller, Jacob's Ladder Program Coordinator, in combination with other Jacob's Ladder staff will facilitate a monthly four-session program at The Harvest Center. The purpose is to identify guests who might be interested in and ready for a structured learning environment around job readiness, with the intent of their joining the next month's class at Jacob's Ladder.





Jacob's Ladder Launches New Website

Check out our new website at www.jacobsladdercharlotte.org. Designed by Posse Social Media Consulting and Hibiscus Graphix, Inc. Our new site has a fresh look and features such as videos, an online donation system, and news blogs. Bookmark our site to your favorites today and share it with friends, family and co-workers as a charitable cause to support this holiday season. Also connect with us on facebook (Jacob's Ladder Job Center, Inc) and twitter (@JacobsladderCLT) for up to date information on news and events.



We Appreciate All Those Who Support The Work We Do!

Your gifts to Jacob's Ladder are gratefully acknowledged. Because of your contributions, we have been able to get hundreds of Charlotteans back to work and off government assistance. Your gift this holiday season will enable us to continue serving Charlotte's unemployed and underemployed citizens and allow us to broaden our training. Consider a year-end, tax-deductible gift to Jacob's Ladder - give the gift that will keep on giving throughout 2012. Donations can be made securely online at www.jacobsladdercharlotte.org or mailed to us at **P.O. Box 9215, Charlotte, NC 28299**



Special Dedication

Jacob's Ladder staff, board members, volunteers and students joined former executive director Steffi Travis to dedicate the Jacob's Ladder Job Center Core Classroom in Travis' honor. Travis served as Jacob's Ladder executive director for 10 years and is currently the chief development officer at Care Ring.



Above: Pictured with Travis from left to right are: Johnny Day (interim executive director), Denise Moses (volunteer coordinator), Sheena Bossie (project manager), Gloria Capmbell-Whatley (board member), Steffi Travis (former executive director) Jeff Jones (board chair) and Derrick Miller (program coordinator). Below: Steffi Travis sits and talks with one of Jacob's Ladders recent graduates.



Our Impact!

Jacob's Ladder served over 330 Charlotte citizens in 2011.

77% of Jacob's Ladder graduates (over 235 individuals) secured gainful employment in fields such as Customer Service, Healthcare, Hospitality, Food Service, and Manufacturing.

That equals an average of \$2,111,616.00 back in our Charlotte economy within a six month time period.



From the Executive Director . . .

With the current unemployment rate in Charlotte at 10.5% and the joblessness figure for African-Americans above 16%, our services are needed now more than ever. Many of our clients have to overcome barriers such as lack of formal education and technology skills, unstable housing, and a history of convictions. That is why we are to help them be prepared for the competitive job market and get back to work.

We do this by providing coaching and practice on work ethic, professional dress, the proper way to complete employment applications, resume and cover letter building, interviewing skills, and developing a job seeking strategy.

Many thanks to our dedicated staff, volunteers and supporters for helping us make a significant impact on our community this

past year. More than 235 (77%) of Jacob's Ladder graduates have started working in 2011 in fields such as customer service, healthcare, hospitality, food service, and manufacturing.

We are now gearing up for 2012 where we have all of our classes almost filled for January. We'll also be introducing a new program to support our graduates and their employers to help continue to support and assist our clients in the workplace.

We appreciate your support and you being a part of our journey in helping unemployed and underemployed people get back to work. On behalf of everyone at Jacob's Ladder we wish you a wonderful holiday season, Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year!

Sincerely,
Johnny Day
Interim Executive Director



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