March 1, 2012 – June 30, 2012

Community Coordinator Report

Submitted By: Nicole K. Clift

BUTTE COUNTY ONE STOP LOCATIONS

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On Wednesday, May 23, 2012, the Spring Class of Butte College CNAs graduated from their program. Of the 16 graduating students, 9 were sponsored by the Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD), with the remaining sponsored by the Department of Employment and Social Services (DESS). The students spent 9 weeks in the classroom and at nursing facilities practicing their clinical where they provided nursing and nursing related services to residents, maintained homelike environment for the residents, protected and promoted resident rights and assisted the patients to maintain as much of their independence as possible. They also provided routine care to patients, reported to the senior doctor patient status by spending maximum time in the room with the patient, maintained a neat and clean ward, obtained specimens, weights, and vital signs of patients, administered injections and gave medicinal intakes.

On Monday, May 21st, representatives from AFWD and DESS met with the CNA students at Butte College and assisted them with resume construction and revision to include their newly learned skills in advance of a job fair for Health Care Workers, being held at Butte College the very next afternoon. Our clients were well prepared and very interested in crafting the highest quality resume possible, with many of them coming down to the Chico One-Stop in the morning to take advantage of our computers, printers, and free resume paper services.

The graduates took the State of California CNA Exam on June 16, 2012 where upon earning a passing grade, they will obtain their CNA license. Many of the graduates are continuing their education so that they can become Registered Nurses.
“Never Pay Full Price for Fabulous.” Sure, that’s Marshall’s motto, but how about applying that to the Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. AFWD and the Butte Community Employment Center in Oroville played an integral part in assisting Marshalls Department Store with their recent recruitment on April 6th, 9th, and 13th at 78 Table Mt. Blvd in Oroville.

More than 800 potential applicants swarmed the One-Stop those days; 87 of those potential applicants were given contingent employment offers by Marshalls. Several of those offered employment are already existing AFWD clients who are enrolled either as a Youth, Adult or Dislocated Worker.

Weeks before the event, customers from all around Butte County were already patronizing the services at the Butte Community Employment Centers. Some sought help with filling out the Marshalls application; others needed assistance with putting together a resume; some even requested to attend an interview workshop. All of these services were provided by AFWD.

Marshalls had its grand opening on May 10, 2012. Business Services Representative, Wendy Sweeney, along with countless City Officials were present at the ribbon cutting ceremony. Marshalls also donated $5000.00 to the Oroville Rescue Mission, not only because the Oroville Rescue Mission is a worthy cause, but also as a symbol of their belonging to the Oroville Community.

Helping customers with applications, resumes, and mock interviews while providing employers with a workforce are FABULOUS services AFWD provides at no cost. Yes, at AFWD you “Never Pay Full Price for Fabulous.”
On The Job Training Success Story!

In November of 2011 job seeker Angela McKeown came to AFWD looking for assistance due to the difficulties she was having finding employment. Angela had been laid off from her previous job where she worked for a construction company for approximately 5 years. Although she had office skills, Angela felt they were limited to the construction industry and slightly outdated. After assistance in determining what type of training program would enhance her abilities to qualify for more opportunities AFWD determined she would be a great candidate for On The Job Training (OJT). Angela was referred to an open position with a local non-profit as an Administrative Assistant for the initial 24 weeks of employment through the OJT Program. As of June she successfully completed this training thus becoming a valuable employee who is trained in the many job specific tasks necessary to support a non-profit business. Angela plays a vital role in assisting her co-workers as well as providing essential information to those interested in the services provided by her new employer.

We congratulate Angela on her achievements and wish her continued success in her new career.
One of the top 4 challenges identified at the Chamber's Business Summit in January of 2012 was "Employment Challenges: Qualified Workforce." The Chico Chamber partnered with the Alliance for Workforce Development, The Training Place at Butte College, and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to develop a survey that gave us an in-depth understanding of the specific workforce challenges faced by our local businesses; information we will use to deliver targeted solutions.

The Chico Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Alliance For Workforce Development, was pleased to provide a two-hour workshop focusing on workforce issues that had been identified through this survey. Held on May 9th at the Butte College Training Place this workshop was an intimate chance for businesses small and large to participate in a round table discussion pinpointing topics of challenge. There was overwhelming positive feedback from those whom attended and are looking forward to being a part of our counties workforce solutions.

"I enjoyed attending your workshop on Wednesday. I am going to explore doing some hiring through the Alliance for Workforce Development. I may also take advantage of your training sessions – especially for my supervisors. You were all very good at explaining your programs and I found the session to be very worthwhile my time."

~ Pat Fur, Computers for Classrooms
Spring Business Symposium

The Alliance for Workforce Development Inc. sponsored the Spring Business Symposium held at the Big Room of the Sierra Nevada Brewing Company on April 26, 2012. Highlighting the theme, “Business Solutions on the Horizon,” the event featured seasoned speakers like Carol Linscheid, Human Resources Vice President of Enloe Medical Center and Rhonda Turner, Human Resources Manager of Lundberg Family Farms. These two speakers tackled the human resource challenges faced by employers and gave the experts’ views on wage and termination issues. Another interesting aspect of the program was the presentation on Customer Service Life cycle by Jack Sterling, owner of Paddle Inc. and Alan Rice, owner of Fleet Feet Chico. These two presenters engaged the attendees in insightful discussions about ways to get customers involved and feel appreciated. Employers who were able to set-up displays also brought with them samples of their products. The event was an excellent opportunity for the BSRs of AFWD to successfully connect with many employers who will be potential partners in our various projects.
AFWD Inc. participated in Project Homeless Connect on April 18, 2012 at Chico’s Silver Dollar Fairgrounds. Resource Specialist Jane Haberman along with CCAs Lisa Scott, Mark Alvidrez and Anne Lake provided information regarding AFWD services available at the One-Stops. This event was organized by the Butte County Continuum of Care. Over 480 homeless men, women and children were present at the event which was labeled a success by the event’s organizers. AFWD staff spoke with many participants that needed assistance with their job searching efforts. Staff provided business cards and made appointments with job seekers to provide further assistance at the One-Stops. Youth Job Seeker referrals were also collected and given to Youth CCAs to contact and provide Youth Orientation information. Many of those participating in this beneficial event were given the opportunity to services that usually take months for them to access.

AFWD staff provided two different slide shows that looped throughout the event. A slideshow highlighting services provided at the One-Stop along with the Resume Workshop presentation allowed the participants to familiarize themselves with Job Seeker services in a comfortable environment. The atmosphere described at the Project Homeless Connect event was jovial, considering the circumstances the participants are surrounded by. AFWD staff networked with other Non-Profits and provided them with available services as well. Organizations that were present at this event were very interested in AFWD services and will start referring their clients to the One-Stop for Job Seeker services.
The Oroville Area Chamber of Commerce hosted the Oroville Jobs and Business Hearing on May 9, 2012 at the Feather Falls Casino Function Hall. Local business owners, State and City officials and Chamber of Commerce representatives attended the event. Select members of the community were invited to speak on issues concerning their business interactions with regulatory agencies. Moderated by Assemblyman Dan Logue, this educational event allowed panelists to be in dialogue with members of the audience and business owners who were speaking formally about regulatory nightmares.

The hearing ended with positive notes from the CEO of Roplast Industries, Robert Bateman and AFWD Business Services Representative, Will Pagarigan. Mr. Bateman articulated a clear message on how to adjust employment and procurement policies to favor relationships with our overseas partners. Mr. Pagarigan took the opportunity to promote the continued Skills Training and Employment Program (STEP), which reimburses 50% of wage costs per employee hired, for up to 6 months, as well as highlighting other programs geared towards assisting businesses, job seekers and other organizations.