Butte College RN & LVN Class

AFWD continues to strengthen the partnership with Butte College assisting the spring 2014 class of (16) Registered Nursing students. Working closely with the Nursing Department at the main campus, AFWD assisted the students with the cost of tuition, books, scrubs, and other training related materials as the students began a journey that would lead to new career opportunities. The four semester program started with classroom participation and by the third semester the students started their clinical hours, which provided the students with hands on experience working with patients and residents.

Registered Nurses earn on average $31.84/hour or $65,950 annually. The projected growth rate is 15%-21% with 1,052,600 projected job openings source: www.onetonline.org. Out of the 34 enrolled Registered Nurse students AFWD, Inc. assisted 22 students. The RN program creates friendships and strong lasting bonds between the students. They stated that they prepared for clinical by first using each other as “Guinea Pigs”, each student gave and received intravenous, injections and accumulated thousands of hours of blood pressure readings to help get them prepared.

Left; AFWD clients: above from top left- Ashley Sewell, Briana Watts, Christine LeMaster, William Lohse, Miriam Elizabeth Barrios, Sarah Voisey, Rebecca Sullenger, Brian Larsen, Alissa Davis- bottom left Kirstin Ball, Sarah Bolen, Katharine Slusarenko, Amber Ascherin, Daniel Kline, DeEdra Hartman
AFWD has also assisted with the application fees, live scan cost and their State Nursing License. At this time, it has been reported that 90% of the graduating RN’s have been successful with securing full time self-sufficient employment. The majority of the RN’s have received offers of employment from Enloe, Feather River and Oroville Hospital, where the rest have been employed with Alpine House and UCSF.

AFWD is proud to sponsor these individuals and help them on their way to becoming career minded individuals in this fast growing, personally rewarding field.

On Friday, May 30, 2014, the Spring Class of Butte College LVN’s graduated from their program. Of the 19 graduating students, all were sponsored by AFWD, Inc. The students spent 18 months in the classroom and at nursing facilities practicing their clinicals where, working under the supervision of a physician or registered nurse (RN), they provided basic bedside care to sick, elderly, convalescent, disabled or injured patients. Licensed vocational nurses work in a variety of settings, including hospitals, nursing care facilities and doctor’s offices. A licensed vocational nurse has several options for career advancement once they enter the field. In nursing homes and other structured health care settings, LVNs can advance to the position of charge nurse and begin supervising nursing aides and other licensed vocational nurses. They may earn credentials to work in such specialized areas as gerontology, long-term care, pharmacology and IV therapy. Or an LVN may choose to enroll in a training program designed for licensed vocational nurses who wish to become registered nurses. Due to the bright outlook of this occupation coupled with their transferable skills, along with their high desires of working in the healthcare field, an LVN education was an ideal choice.

During the 18 month training period, these students were assisted by AFWD in their training needs, such as; Registration and fees, textbooks, Kaplan, scrub's and shoes, as well as the cost of licensure fees. The graduates will next be scheduled to take the State of California LVN Exam where upon earning a passing grade, they will obtain their LVN license. Many of the graduates are prospecting continuing their education so that they can become Registered Nurses. AFWD was proud to sponsor these individuals and help them on their way to becoming career-minded individuals in this fast growing and personally rewarding field.

*Figure: Small token of appreciation from LVN students in the form of a beautiful signed pot and flowering shrub to their instructor.*
And The Winner Is......Team Chico!!

On April 9, 2014 the California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED) presented Team Chico the Grand Prize Award of Excellence in the category of Economic Development Programs at the 34th Annual Training Conference. Team Chico is a collaborative partnership between the Alliance for Workforce Development, the City of Chico, 3CORE, the Chico Chamber of Commerce, and the Downtown Chico Business Association. Representatives from all of Team Chico’s partner organizations attended the honorable event and took center stage together to symbolize our collaboration.

This award highlights Team Chico’s innovative and creative approach to Economic Development during a critical time for the City of Chico and is a model that can be replicated in other communities. The “Key” to Team Chico’s collaboration is the interconnection of all the service providers with the City of Chico in delivering multiple resources needed by business to overcome their needs and challenges.

Team Chico’s coordinated outreach approach included conducting business walks in major employment centers connecting with over 500 businesses and personally delivering 2,000 Smart Business Links resource guides. Along with personal outreach to employment centers, Team Chico began addressing industry sectors and holding CEO Roundtables. Team Chico also supported 3CORE’s Business Vitality Seed Fund and assisted in identifying and evaluating emerging businesses for growth opportunity. Forums and policy sessions were also held on permitting and business climate issues. In response, Team Chico initiated business lunches with city management and elected officials for open discussions with businesses.

The prestigious award is showcased in the office of Butte County Director of Operations, Luis Moreno as well as by our partners to promote the further development of Team Chico.
Youth Program Partnership with Juvenile Hall and Probation

Collaboration with Butte County Juvenile Hall and Probation is ongoing. We now receive referrals directly from Probation Officers, enrolling youth wanting to make positive changes in their lives. We are also going into Juvenile Hall and doing work readiness workshops with youth housed there.

Fresh Start Youth Farm is a program developed by Butte County Probation in collaboration with other community partners. The program will provide at-risk youth the opportunity to give back to their community, expose them to positive pro-social experiences, and provide them with job skills. Our overall objective is to grow into a self-sustaining project.

On May 3, 2014, construction of the first 20 garden beds adjacent to the Probation Department on County Center Drive in Oroville began.

Working with probation and juvenile hall youth, AFWD, Inc. staff assisted in this meaningful and worthwhile project, together with staff from juvenile hall, probation, and other community members.
Client Success Stories....

Alliance For Workforce Development, Inc.
Providing pathways to success

Employed!!

Jennifer Green faced some challenges since moving to California from Illinois. She found it difficult to obtain full time employment with her limited skills. She had limited work experience as a seasonal associate at a local clothing store and pharmacy. Jennifer has had extensive exposure to the healthcare field as her mother and three sisters currently work as CNA’s; therefore, Jennifer had a great desire to continue the tradition of working in the healthcare field. It was determined after assessing Jennifer that she was a great fit for this occupation in a growing industry where she can work towards self-sufficiency.

In the spring of 2014, Alliance for Workforce Development was able to participate in the sponsorship of Jennifer Green, in the Butte College Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) program. AFWD was able to assist with tuition fees, textbooks, live scan, CNA kit and state board fees. Jennifer completed the nine week course, successfully earning high marks, and passed her State CAN exam. She graduated on June 12, 2014 and attended a career fair put on by AFWD. Jennifer updated the skills on her resume and was able to meet with prospective employers and start networking in her field. Within a weeks’ time of her graduation, Jennifer was contacted by the facility Windsor Chico Creek, for an interview. Immediately, after her interview Jennifer was hired on the spot by the employer! Jennifer is extremely thankful for AFWD’s assistance and is looking forward to being able to be part of the workforce.

“My experience with AFWD was awesome, any time I needed something or to ask a question my case worker Monica Perez was always there to assist. If it wasn’t for AFWD helping me out with my needs for school I would have found it very difficult to start and complete this training. With your help and my amazing case worker, I was able to worry about studying instead of worrying about how I was going to pay for things, and for that I am extremely thankful. Now I am looking forward to starting work and being the best certified nursing assistant I can be. I want to thank you so much for all your help and support though out my training experience. I wouldn’t be where I am today without the help from you guys and my amazing case worker, Monica Perez.”
~ Jennifer Green
Ricquel Seely came to our program in September of 2013. She wanted to complete her high school diploma, but was busy working in a temporary position for TJ Maxx in Chico and acting as a caretaker for her disabled mother. In her spare time she assisted as a volunteer in a hospital gift shop. Ricquel started the program strong, regularly attending workshops and calling or coming in on a weekly basis. Early this year, her sister invited Ricquel to move with her to a new job in Kansas. Ricquel jumped at the opportunity for a change of scene. In a frenzy of activity she completed her GED and moved with her sister to start a new life.

Soon after arriving in Kansas she applied, interviewed, and was hired by Starwood Hotels and Resorts. In her own words she is “…a travel advisor; Starwood is a fortune 500 company, and I book hotel rooms for our 8 brands of hotels around the world which are: Sheraton, Westin, Element, Aloft, Four Points by Sheraton, W Hotels, Luxury Collection, & St. Regis. My job revolves around hospitality and having a passion for customer service, because we’re not just booking hotels, we’re booking memories. Some people have saved up for years to take their vacation to Hawaii or Bora Bora, and we make it happen by finding them exactly what they need.” Ricquel now makes $10.50 an hour working full time, and has full benefits. She is considering continuing her education and plans on buying her own car soon!
**Butte County Visitors**

70,861

**AFWD Business Services**

- Business Served: 2,082
- Service Provided: 11,389
- Positions Filled: 3,102
- Training Assistance: 461

**Program Services**

Total enrollments P/Y 2013-2014

- Adult: 429
- Dislocated Worker: 403
- Youth: 218
- Employed: 829

**Unemployment**

- Butte: 7.9%
- Plumas: 9.2%
- Lassen: 8.6%
- Sierra: 9.4%
- Modoc: 9.1%