

# Community

# Coordinator

# Report

Butte County

JULY-SEPTEMBER

2013



## Brings hundreds of jobs to Chico!

Milestone Technologies, Inc., which opened a small office in Chico last year, announced a huge expansion with the immediate need of 230 employees! The Fremont based company solves information technology problems for its clients, which are major companies around the world including the likes of Facebook, Google and eBay. AFWD jumped right in and offered services which were gladly welcomed by Milestone founder and CEO Prem Chand, a local of the North Valley. Recruitment efforts began immediately by all AFWD staff.

Many applicants were uncertain of the new IT titled company thus thinking they did not have the skills to even apply. AFWD staff was able to assure applicants that the best quality in a new employee would not be a computer science wizard yet, a customer service professional willing to make the technical issue a positive experience. Resume and cover letter assistance services were offered to anyone seeking help applying

for this unique opportunity through the One Stop Employment Centers. Applicants were strongly encouraged to preregister at [www.Milestonepowered.com](http://www.Milestonepowered.com) for a time slot at the Hiring Fair on September 28th at Chico State University's Bell Memorial Union auditorium from 10a.m. to 8p.m. The day of the event was filled with both AFWD and Milestone staff adorning dark blue Milestone t-shirts, making the event seamless. Applicants went from one organized section of the process to the next without hesitation. Over the course of the day, over 1,000 eager people had gone through one or more of the stages, 400 of those with scheduled second interviews. These were conducted between Sunday and Wednesday at the Chico One Stop with plenty of staff on hand to assist. Stay tuned as our next report will specify the job numbers created from this event.



# 11<sup>th</sup> Annual OEDCO BBQ

(Oroville Economic Development Corp.)

Approximately 150 supporters from the Oroville business community attended the Oroville Economic Development Corporation's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual BBQ Dinner. Held at Long Creek Winery in Oroville, the dinner portion of the event featured an entrée of BBQ'd burgers and hot dogs from Long Creek's herd of a more sustainable "mini" Hereford cattle. Employees and students from Lineman College prepared and served the buffet dinner. OEDCO's Director presented an update on information affecting businesses in Oroville and Butte County thus energizing the business community.

Supporters of the event were Oroville Hospital, Tri Counties Bank, Ygrene, Rabobank among others. Other featured businesses being presented and appreciated were, of course, wines, olive oils and businesses showing off their fine wares and services – Berkeley Olive Oil, Purple Line Winery, Dirk's Automotive & Transmission and Feather Falls Brewery.

A wonderful event shared by many sharing the common goal of positive business in the Oroville community.



## AFWD One-Stop Statistics

### Butte County Visitors

**18,873**

### AFWD Business Services

<b>Business Served</b>	<b>1091</b>
<b>Services Provided</b>	<b>3393</b>
<b>Positions Filled</b>	<b>725</b>
<b>Training Assistance</b>	<b>188</b>

### Program Services

#### New Enrollments this quarter

<b>Adult</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Dislocated Worker</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Youth</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Employed</b>	<b>202</b>

### Unemployment Rate

<b>Butte</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>Plumas</b>	<b>9.6%</b>
<b>Lassen</b>	<b>9.7%</b>	<b>Sierra</b>	<b>10.5%</b>
<b>Modoc</b>	<b>9.6%</b>		

# Cosmetology



## Program

The Chico Youth Program at Butte County AFWD enrolled several Cosmetology students from the Chico Beauty College this spring. So far four have graduated with their certificate in Cosmetology and are taking their State Board Exams this month. Three more will graduate soon and take their State Board Exams next month. We are also in the process of enrolling a couple more that will be graduating in January 2014. We have been able to help participants with the State Board Test Fees, Rent A Kit Fees, uniforms and supplies needed to succeed in this program. We have made our Job Ready workshops available to them on a one-on-one basis due to their hectic schedule and will be assisting them with job leads. A couple of the participants have jobs lined up already at local salons.



## NOW OPEN!

The Goodwill Store, at North Valley Plaza, opened its doors

to the public Aug 22nd at 8 a.m. at 765 East Ave., which is the former Mervyn's site. The store will provide on-the-job training to people with disabilities, and provide affordable retail choices for consumers.

Goodwill contacted AFWD when they decided to open a store here in Chico. They needed a number of employees to staff everything from the donation centers to management positions; and they asked us to assist them. Also, because all of the people conducting interviews and orientations were in Sacramento, they asked us if we could provide them with space at the Butte Community Employment Center.

AFWD posted all available positions with Goodwill on Northstatejobs.org, as well as posted flyers in our lobbies. Goodwill wanted to see every application and resume that came in and they received hundreds. Numerous rooms were reserved with us to conduct all their interviews and orientations at the Chico Employment Center. When they were unable to make the trip to Chico we were able to set up Skype interviews for their convenience.

With our help the new hire numbers include: 6 at the donation centers, 50 in the store, and several management positions. AFWD was a major part of staffing Goodwill's new site and were happy to be a part of their opening ceremonies.



# This Quarter's Success Stories



Jamon Espinoza has had to face some challenges in his life. He was released from prison in 2011 after serving 12 years. When he and his family moved to Oroville he was enrolled in the Calworks program. Jamon's work experience through this program was at the Oroville Hope Center. The staff was

very encouraging and full of advice regarding job search and life skills. Jamon managed to obtain his forklift certification through Butte College with DESS's help hoping that this would open up job opportunities. Every place he applied he remained unsuccessful at his endeavors to obtain employment.

In January 2013 Jamon was referred to the Skills Training Employment Program by his Department of Social Services Employment Case Manager. The STEP program is facilitated by AFDW Business Service Representatives. BSR's met with Jamon to discuss job development and potential referrals. At first Jamon was resistant to anything under \$10.00 an hour and stated that he didn't want fast food. It was explained to him that because of some barriers; facial tattoos, lack of work history and felony convictions it was going to be a challenge to find employment opportunities above minimum wage. However it was encouraging for him to learn that the STEP 50% wage reimbursement could be the catalyst needed to get his foot in the door. Jamon's resume and applications were sent to several employers but after a few months he was remained unemployed. Jamon was getting frustrated, he attended AFDW's interview skills workshop to get some encouragement and enhance his abilities.

In March of this year BSR's scheduled Jamon for an interview at Grocery Outlet. This locally owned business has been a strong proponent for the STEP program.

Grocery Outlet has hired and trained many people through the STEP program and they have successfully retained some quality employees. Jamon was not selected for employment from this first interview. But the interview was the confidence builder that he needed; Jamon decided that he was going to go in daily to sign on their log sheet and ask to see management when possible. His professional persistence paid off a month later. The owner stated that Jamon was so determined to get an opportunity and was always polite that he decided to create a position that would fill a need for everyone concerned. Jamon does the 4:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. shift seven days a week, he does the floors and he takes great pride in their polished shine. He cleans the restrooms and stocks the products; Jamon is being called on to perform many other job duties now. Jamon has never missed a day of work in five months. The owners and management have come to rely on his positive attitude, good nature and dependability. Jamon is definitely a success story!



# A Veteran's Journey to Full-Time Employment

Adam Durand proudly served three tours in Iraq as a cannon crewmember and separated from the Army with honors on September 1, 2009. Adam's list of commendations is long, illustrating his military career as a war time veteran. When Adam first walked into the Chico One-Stop, he was quiet and reserved, not knowing what to expect. One might say he was a little suspicious of the assistance he was told he could receive. To fully comprehend Adam's success, his job search journey must be told.

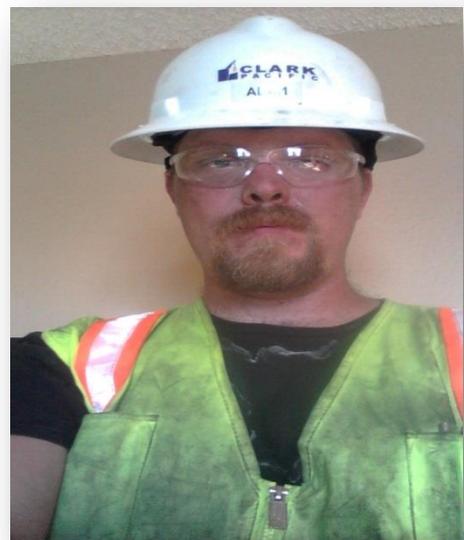
Adam was referred in early May 2013 by Butte County Veterans Service Officer, Hannah Williamson. It was during a conversation with Alliance for Workforce Development Inc. Business Services Representative, Jessica Washburn when Adam was referred. Mrs. Washburn and Ms. Williamson brought Adam to my cubicle and introduced me to him. His body language expressed his nervousness and his demeanor also expressed a burden he seemed to be carrying. After reviewing his resume, it was evident that he wasn't afraid of manual labor as noted by his 16 years of welding experience and certificate. He had the skills and work experience to obtain full-time employment.

One month later Adam appeared at the One-Stop and was utilizing Universal Services. Adam seemed a little happier and he stood a little taller. He apologized for not returning and asked if I had time to speak with him. Adam explained that he was experiencing a crisis when we first met. He said he was facing homelessness when he was referred to me and he was now living at the Torres Homeless Shelter in Chico. He said he was now ready to job search full-time and utilize his certification and work experience. According to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, in 2012 more than 220,000 Veterans seek assistance to finding safe and stable housing. Adam had now joined that population of homeless Veterans.

Adam's outlook on obtaining full-time employment was rapidly changing. His outward

appearance had drastically transformed. He smiled, laughed and was less reserved compared to our first meeting. He was still residing at the Torres Shelter and he stated that the burden of not having to sleep in his truck was gone. Adam was repeatedly referred to employers by Mrs. Washburn and Mr. Rogers often referred Adam to employment opportunities. It was during an appointment to review his job search when Adam and I located a job opportunity in Woodland, CA. Clark Pacific in Woodland was recruiting for their expanding company.

He stated that the mock interview at the Vet Connect workshop was beneficial and Mrs. Washburn and Mr. Rogers had prepared him. Adam had nervously stated that he didn't have interview clothes and was very uncomfortable in using his clothing he had at that time. A request for supportive services was written and approved to assist Adam. It was at that moment when the clothes were purchased, Adam had smiled and said "Thank you, this is going to help." Adam attended his interview and was asked to return and exhibit his welding skills. One week later, Adam was contacted by his new employer was asked to begin his new job on August 16, 2013. His journey as a job seeker had come to a positive conclusion. Adam's determination and inspiration led four agencies to collaborate more than ever to assist him throughout his journey to full-time employment. Adam is truly an inspiration to us all.



Pictures from Milestone Job Fair



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**Alliance For  
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 Providing pathways to success

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