ALL VETERANS STAND DOWN EVENT

The All Veterans Stand Down Event welcomed 142 Veterans and dozens of vendors to the Nevada County Fairgrounds in mid-October. The annual event, which has been held locally for more than 15 years, featured Nevada County Veterans Services Office (NCVSO), multiple outside agencies, and volunteers providing food, clothing, and health screenings to homeless and at-risk Veterans.

In addition, veterans also received referrals for health care, housing solutions, employment, substance use treatment, mental health counseling, and other essential services. Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc.’s (AFWD) Grass Valley office participated in the event by sharing resources including employment assistance.

The NCVSO aids veterans, their dependents, and their surviving spouses in receiving the federal, state, and local benefits they are entitled. With the AFWD Resource Center professionals just footsteps away, AFWD is able to work in conjunction with the NCVSO. It is so rewarding to help those who gave so much!
ANOTHER ONE ON THE ROAD

Kristina came to Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) for assistance with obtaining her Class A Commercial Driver’s License. After being a stay-at-home mom for many years, she took the initiative to start her own online reselling business. Kristina’s business was just becoming profitable when the Covid-19 pandemic began and her sales took a steep decline. Over the next 2 years, her sales never recovered to their pre-pandemic level. She began searching job postings and saw many available truck driver postings. She started looking into the process of obtaining her CDL since she enjoys being on the road and now has the ability to be away from home for long periods of time. We were able to get Kristina enrolled into the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program as a dislocated worker, got her set up with Anthony Soto’s Center for Human Development of California’s Class A CDL program, and assist with her tuition. Kristina was able to complete her Class A CDL training and was able to find a job, almost immediately, with Crain Walnuts. She’s so happy in her new role!

NAVIGATING TO SUCCESS

Mark came to Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) requesting assistance to find work. He worked as a mechanic but was laid off in early 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and became homeless. Mark was interested in obtaining his Class A CDL. We enrolled and were able to help Mark find an employer that was willing to train him so that he could get his CDL. Mark was provided supportive services to help with his auto insurance and tires for his car so that he could attend the training he was offered. In under 2 months, Mark was able to complete his training and get his CDL, but unfortunately, the company was unable to hire him. Mark was able to find an open position with System Transport in Washington but System Transport requires their drivers to have a Semi-Truck specific GPS unit, which Mark did not have the financial ability to purchase on his own. We were again able to provide a supportive service to assist Mark in obtaining the required GPS unit. Mark is now out on the road and driving his way to self-sufficiency.

GROUP RIBBON CEREMONY

In 2020 a new and formidable challenge occurred, testing the entrepreneurial spirit. Its name... COVID. The Greater Grass Valley Chamber (GGVC), led by Robin Davies, was front and center to support the businesses to secure Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funding, zoom communications, e-commerce, and logistics to keep the business community intact.

Despite the tumultuous 2 years, 51 businesses launched and the GGVC was there to champion their aspirations. Maryanne Connelley, Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD), joined other Ambassadors led by Joy Porter (Winding Road Imagery) and Erin Sorani (Network Real Estate), for a group ribbon cutting ceremony on Mill Street, in downtown Grass Valley. Over 17 businesses partook in the event last month, honoring the American dream, and keeping the heartbeat of entrepreneurship alive and well.
NEVADA COUNTY
AFWD Q2 Statistics

Unemployment Information
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES AS OF 12/22:

CALIFORNIA: 4.0%
NEVADA COUNTY: 3.2%

TOP 3 AFFECTED INDUSTRY SECTORS:

1. CONSTRUCTION
2. ACCOMMODATION & FOOD SERVICES
3. ADMIN & SUPPORT/WASTE MGMT/REMEDICATION

Nevada County Q2 Statistics

ONE STOP VISITORS: 916

TOTAL AFWD BUSINESSES SERVED: 1,499

TOTAL AFWD CLIENTS ENROLLED: 63

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