



## Connect to Work Experience

**Aligned Partner Referral:** Mercy Corps NW Reentry Transition Center

*The mission of Mercy Corps NW Reentry Transition Center is to help people build secure and productive futures for themselves, their families, and the community.*

This customer was interested in a work experience at Free Geek where he had been completing court-mandated community service. He had a difficult time transitioning from the corrections system to community and could not return to his prior work in construction. His experience at Free Geek helped him realize how interesting technology is and his goal was to learn as much as he could about computers so that he could educate and mentor youth and, hopefully, keep them from becoming involved in the justice system. The Connect to Work Experience Specialist (WES) visited the Free Geek facility and learned that not only do they provide many volunteer opportunities; they also provide benefits for their volunteers and interns, including a free computer after a specified number of hours of service. Free Geek was familiar with this customer's strong work ethic and offered him a work experience. As a result of this placement a strong partnership has been established with Free Geek. This creates more opportunities for more customers interested in the tech field. For the first time in a long time this customer has hope of providing for his wife and children, and is learning invaluable skills in many different areas of technology.

## Connect to Careers

**Aligned Partner Referral:** Human Solutions.

*Human Solutions helps low-income and homeless families and individuals in gaining self-sufficiency by providing affordable housing, family support services, job readiness training, and economic development opportunities.*

This customer had been out of the workforce for almost 5 years. With her extensive work history in case management services, she was ready to serve in the social services sector. The Connect to Careers Job Developer coached the customer on her interview skills and highlighted her qualifications to best meet employer expectations. The Job Developer contacted various employers that aligned with the customer's interests in working with families. Though the customer had been interviewing, she expressed frustration at the lack of job offers. The Job Developer and Human Solutions Case Manager worked closely with the customer on interview techniques and how best to highlight her experience in social services.

The customer followed through on applying to all job leads, revamped her resume to highlight her experiences, communicated with Job Developer weekly for support and guidance, and attended WorkSource workshops to upgrade her knowledge and skills. Her dedicated effort paid off! The customer interviewed well with a large nonprofit agency and was hired within the week. She is now working with youth and families in a full time position making \$15.25/hour including full benefits.

*We are open for referrals in all Connect to Services.*

*For More Information please call: Tim Finnegan, Manager of Workforce Development at 503-772-2337 or via email at [tfinnegan@seworks.org](mailto:tfinnegan@seworks.org).*