ANNUAL REPORT

HELPING MOTIVATED CONTRA COSTA JOB SEEKERS GAIN THE SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE TO LAUNCH CAREERS THAT LEAD TO FINANCIAL SECURITY.

FISCAL YEAR 20-21
Dear OJ Supporters and Partners,

Thank you for making it possible for us to continue our life-changing programs during these challenging past 12 months. As we dealt with re-openings and re-closings, the word “pivot” became cliché. The one constant, for me, was knowing that the many job seekers who came to us for training and support deserved the opportunity to succeed.

This year, I am filled with admiration and gratitude for:

- Job seekers who carved out spaces in their homes, sometimes with children in and out during remote schooling, to train for new careers;
- Certified Nursing Assistant graduates entering positions in skilled nursing facilities despite knowing the risks of contracting COVID-19 were higher there;
- Donors who increased their support to help their neighbors get the training needed to return to work; and
- Staff members who used new tools to relate to their job seekers and who persisted through collective and vicarious trauma.

Thank you for your part in this as an employer, donor, volunteer, participant, alum, or community partner.

This year, we adopted a new mission statement, one that more fully reflects the assets and aspirations of the job seekers we serve: “To help motivated Contra Costa job seekers develop the skills and confidence to launch careers that lead to financial security.”

The outcomes, meanwhile, remained impressive, given that so many members of our community could not participate in our programs or start new jobs because of childcare and health concerns.

Our donors and sponsors were especially generous in support of this work throughout the year, including at the virtual 2021 Imagine Gala.

Another important step during the year was developing and working toward fulfilling our Racial Justice Commitments. In addition to updating the mission, we analyzed our enrollment and outcome data for equity gaps, made presentations to our employers about DEIB and competency-based hiring, and updated our lobbying policy to include equity and racial justice as an objective.

With great appreciation to all of you,
Alissa Friedman, President and CEO
$86 MILLION
Alumni earnings verified since 2010

$19.16
Average starting wage across core programs

100
Entered employment and/or earned raises or promotions

587 SERVED
Number served across programs is lower than prior fiscal year due to suspension of in-person services during COVID-19.

$2,433,782
OPERATING REVENUE

$2,321,609
OPERATING EXPENSES

Events & Donations 15%
Government Contracts 36%
Earned Income 2%
Grants 47%

Career Counseling 17%
Administration 6%
Fundraising 8%
Road Map 9%
Other Programs 5%

41% Administrative Careers
14% Healthcare Careers

Draft audited financials not yet reviewed by board.
HEALTHCARE CAREERS

Our Healthcare Career Pathway partnership offers job seekers the opportunity to launch healthcare careers in the high-demand occupation of Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). The CNA training program, offered in partnership with Mt. Diablo Adult Education and Empowered Aging, lasts 12 weeks and includes hands-on clinical experience. This year, we launched a second site at Opportunity Junction’s Antioch location.

The HCP starts with CNA training but doesn’t end there. Linh Luangrath graduated in the second Mt. Diablo CNA cohort in autumn of 2019. She began work as a CNA just as the pandemic hit and had to quit her job to care for her children. In March 2021, with the kids still learning remotely, Linh decided to go back to school herself. The CNA program had set her up to be accepted into a Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) program. Linh will graduate from her LVN program in April 2022 and take the next step on her pathway!

"Being a CNA is a challenging job, but I don’t just want a paycheck, I absolutely love caring for people."

CAREER COUNSELING

Our Career Counselors provide case management, career counseling, group activities, and job placement services in our Antioch office and at SparkPoint Contra Costa in Bay Point.

TECHNOLOGY CENTER

The evening Technology Center, temporarily operating online, offers no-cost classes in software applications and English as a Second Language, as well as other resume-building classes.

DIY TAX ASSISTANCE

During tax season, we taught taxpayers to prepare their own returns using a free website. Experienced, trained session leaders ran the program, coaching in both English and Spanish.
ADMINISTRATIVE CAREERS TRAINING

The Administrative Careers Training (ACT) program prepares motivated job seekers for administrative careers, combining computer training with life skills, case management, paid work experience, mental health support, career skills, job placement assistance, and alumni services.

“If it weren’t for Opportunity Junction, I really wouldn’t have the job I have now, and I love it! I don’t mind getting up early and going to work because I know I am in a good career, and I can move up!”

Pauline Gaona, ACT Class 62

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Pro Bono Professionals: Chris Verdugo of CCTV, David Fraser Photography, Morgan Lewis, Ray Zenoni, Shaun Samuels Photography

Thanks to over 125 volunteers who take on critical roles that we don’t have staff resources to cover. And, thank you to our Alumni Council who provide input into the strategic direction of Opportunity Junction programs.
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