



JobNet clients receive laptops to enhance their job search and computer skills.

Employment Programs Donate Laptops

This fall CCSC was able to distribute 13 laptops to participants in its Employment programs, thanks to a generous donation from Schlumberger through United Way of Greater Houston.

All the computer recipients are actively engaged in job searches and demonstrated their desire to accomplish their goals by participating in CCSC workshops, computer trainings, coaching services, and resume assistance. Having dependable access to technology and internet is crucial for those seeking employment, whether for networking, applying for available employment opportunities, creating resumes, or updating computer skills. Providing clients with a laptop will increase employment opportunities, allowing them to be more successful in their goals.

Clients shared how they will use their laptops to achieve their goals.

Darryl L., a JobNet client said, "I am going to use my laptop for teleconferencing, job preparation and continued education."

Norma G., who recently graduated from CCSC's Professional Home Caregiver Training Program, said, "I am going to use my new laptop to continue viewing the Caregiver program videos, and for future and current employment opportunities, computer classes, and to note the observations of my clients."

Martha's Way graduate and entrepreneur Fabiola S. said, "I will use my computer for marketing my business, increasing my computer skills, and to learn Excel.

CCSC will follow up with the computer recipients to identify additional needs or resources that might be needed.

"We are excited to see the progress our clients will make toward their employment goals," said JobNet Manager Pinkie Wright, "and to provide more opportunities to allow our clients to have technology access at home."

Azalea Auction Open to All

We are looking forward to CCSC's 24th Annual Azalea Gala coming up on November 3. The virtual auction will be open to all and it is FREE to participate. Anyone, not just ticket

holders, can view auction items and place bids beginning October 29.

Be sure to check out these auction highlights and more—all perfect for early holiday shopping!

- Travel packages to Cozumel or Rosemary Beach, Florida.
- Two hospitality tickets to next month's Houston Open—sold out event!
- Two tickets to see George Strait at the Houston Rodeo—sold out event!
- Houston experience packages, such as sports tickets, theatre tickets, wine and beer tastings, and more.
- Restaurant gift cards, jewelry, and packages for the kids.



The Azalea Gala raffle is also open to all beginning October 29. Buy a \$25 ticket for a chance to win a stunning David Yurman Chateleine Pendant Necklace or 12 months of beautiful floral arrangements from Village Greenery!

To view items, place bids, or purchase raffle tickets, visit our secure event website at <https://qtogo.net/qlink/ccschouston> and click "Register for Event."

Good luck and happy bidding!



Jingle Bell Express on Its Way!

Help CCSC to help families in need by participating in our Jingle Bell Express program.

This annual event has been designed in a SAFE drive-thru format and approximately 2,000 children will receive toys, books and food assistance for Christmas.

There are two ways to support Jingle Bell Express:

DONATE

Donate new, unwrapped, non-violent toys for children ages 0-15. Please consider purchasing primary gifts rather than stocking stuffers.

- Deliver toys to CCSC (3434 Branard St. Houston, TX 77027) by December 1.
- Bring toys to Jingle Bell Express (Bellaire United Methodist Church, 4417 Bellaire Blvd. Bellaire, TX 77401) on December 6 or 7.
- Order toys early from CCSC's Jingle Bell Express 2021 Amazon Wish List to ensure on-time delivery to CCSC. Click here:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3FS7CWP0T2VC8?ref=wl_share

VOLUNTEER

Varied Jingle Bell Express volunteer activities occur December 6-11, 2021. Individual volunteers (age 10+) are required to sign up in advance through this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4AA8AB2DA3F5C25-2021>

Volunteer Groups (8 -15 participants) must contact Cathy Brown at seasonal@ccschouston.org or 713-961-3993 ext. 326.

CCSC Community Promotes Martha's Way

This fall CCSC asked its member churches to help share the opportunity to hire graduates of our Martha's Way entrepreneurship-focused housekeeper training program because

providing job leads is one of the best ways we can help graduates launch and expand their housekeeping businesses.

Since 2003, more than 2,000 individuals have graduated from Martha's Way. COVID-19 has been extremely difficult for small business owners—including Martha's Way graduates. Many are still working to rebuild their businesses and add to their customer base.



As always, the CCSC community stepped up to the plate in this time of need. In early 2020, CCSC convened a Martha's Way ambassador committee of representatives from several member churches to identify strategies for promoting the hiring of Martha's Way graduates. This committee has provided valuable input on improvements to the CCSC website and Martha's Way marketing materials as well as outreach strategies.

In September, member churches responded to our call to share information about hiring a Martha's Way housekeeper on social media and in their newsletters, and to ask their parishioners to share information about the program with neighborhood groups and other venues. Some congregations are building on these efforts through targeted outreach to specific groups. For example, St. Anne Catholic Community featured Martha's Way at a table at their St. Anne's Guild meeting and shared brochures and information at their St. Monica Moms meeting.

All these efforts led to great success! In September, we received 21 requests to hire a Martha's Way housekeeper, more than any single month in recent history. We expect to receive even more requests as word spreads. Many thanks to all those supporting Martha's Way entrepreneurs by sharing information about the program.

To request a Martha's Way housekeeper, please visit <https://ccschouston.org/hire-a-housekeeper/>. For information or materials to help promote Martha's Way, please contact Stefanie Lopez at slopez@ccschouston.org or 713-328-0154.

Emergency Services Gives Unexpected Help

Imagine visiting a food pantry to get a couple of bags of groceries to feed your family and receiving an unexpected flyer announcing that grocery gift cards will also be offered to those in need.



During the pandemic, CCSC's two Emergency Services sites have utilized some disaster funds to offer this additional layer of help to our neighbors in need. Each household is eligible to receive a \$100 grocery gift card once every six months. This has been a tremendously popular program for which clients are extremely grateful.

The grocery gift card distributions have also provided CCSC's Employment programs' staff a new opportunity to speak with clients about classes, coaching and skill-building services. As clients wait their turn in the grocery gift card line, the Employment team hands out flyers and discusses ways JobNet, Martha's Way, and the Professional Home Caregiver Training Program can help individuals achieve their goals. In September, one client enthusiastically said, "I didn't know you guys did all of these things!" It was impactful to be able to share additional resources. Clients visited CCSC hoping for a gift card and left with much more.

CCSC is grateful to have the resources to offer special, timely services that help clients navigate the pandemic. Our staff and volunteers look forward to finding new, inventive ways to connect with clients during this long-term, challenging time.

Our mission is to serve the poor, hungry, disabled, and otherwise needy while respecting their religious, ethnic or cultural differences.



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