



Michelle E.'s journey with CCSC started in 2020 and ended with her dream job.

From Needing Help to Helping Others

It's difficult to believe now, but despite her college degree, a positive attitude, and a gift for resourcefulness, Michelle E. found herself in need of food and financial assistance in late 2020. It was then she turned to Christian Community Service Center.

After accessing utility bill assistance from our Emergency Services program, Michelle started working with CCSC's JobNet employment program. She attended regular virtual coaching with Success Coach Stephanie Wen to improve her confidence, develop her interview skills, and access resources in the community.

One thing holding Michelle back was a lack of transportation. She worked with CCSC's financial coach on budgeting, both on short-term goals and the long-term goal of purchasing a vehicle. Michelle held some customer service roles in 2021, but they were frequently disrupted by spotty broadband service.

Emergency Services was able to help with rent assistance when Michelle's subsidized housing ended simultaneously with a job loss. She also received food from our food pantry and from CCSC member church St. John the Divine Episcopal Church through its Thanksgiving Meal Program. Michelle also accessed clothing from Dress for Success Houston.

Michelle continued to work toward using her bachelor's degree in sociology. Her long-term employment goal was to be involved in social services, to give back to the community, to contribute her knowledge and experience.

That all happened earlier this year when Michelle was excited to let CCSC know that she had gotten a job as an Information Support Specialist with the 211 Texas/United Way HELPLINE.

"JobNet was a Godsend for me," Michelle said. "I'm happy to be working in my field of community services. I hope that you all remain in business forever. It's my pleasure to have received services from you."

To help CCSC help others in similar circumstances to Michelle's, please donate on our secure website at <https://ccschouston.org/give/>



CCSC Celebrates its Fabulous Volunteers

CCSC staff and volunteers gathered for an ice cream social celebrating the compassion and dedication of the agency's 365 ongoing volunteers, those who volunteer their time and talents weekly or monthly to propel CCSC's mission. We shared stories, jokes (thanks, Neil!), delicious ice cream treats, and our heartfelt thanks for all that our volunteers do to respectfully help our neighbors in need.

TSU Interns Build Skills at CCSC

Clients visiting JobNet or calling the Emergency Services phone line in the last four months often interacted with CCSC interns Kayla Lee and Kiana Lockett, Texas Southern University students in the final semester of their bachelor's degrees in social work.

Kayla and Kiana were also instrumental in conducting follow-up interviews with recent and former JobNet clients to find out how they were faring and what additional services they might need.

"I enjoyed helping Emergency Services answer incoming calls and interview clients for financial assistance," said Kayla, who hopes to one day work with vulnerable youth. Kayla just accepted an investigator position with Adult Protective Services and will begin working on a master's in social work from the University of Texas at Arlington this fall.



CCSC interns Kiana Lockett, left, and Kayla Lee, center, with CCSC Success Coach Stephanie Wen.

but I also appreciate what I learned from CCSC's volunteers," Kiana said.

"Having interns engage with our programs is a great way to work on special projects and get new insights into our processes. They always provide creativity and enthusiasm," said CCSC Success Coach Stephanie Wen.

"We look forward to welcoming our new

Kiana's passion is senior adults. She always appreciated the senior members of her family and those in her community and she is hoping to address the needs of seniors impacted by economic hardship. Kiana felt her time at CCSC brought her varied insights. "I got to work not only with clients,

ExxonMobil Foundation Community Summer Jobs Program intern soon and hope to add another social work student again this fall," Wen added. "And we were fortunate to add Jaki Blanco, a licensed social worker, to our Emergency Services staff following her CCSC internship and graduation."

Volunteers Distribute 5.2 Tons of Food

At its second Food Fair of 2022, CCSC joined with one of its partners, the Houston Food Bank, to provide 10,529 pounds of fresh and nonperishable food to the community.

Food fair visitors took home fresh milk, sweet potatoes, white potatoes, watermelons and carrots as well as granola bars, biscuit mix and canned green beans.



Thank you to all our awesome volunteers, including those from the following CCSC member churches: Bering Drive Church of Christ, Rice Temple Baptist Church, Grace United Church of Christ, and St. Luke's United Methodist Church-Gethsemane Campus.

Join Us for Our Azalea Wine Pull Event

You won't want to miss CCSC's Stock the Azalea Gala Wine Pull event on Wednesday, June 8 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.!

We are thrilled to announce that this year's event will be held at [Sicardi|Ayers|Bacino](#) art gallery at 1506 W. Alabama St. The "Dean of Houston Sommeliers," Sean Beck of H-Town Restaurant Group, will walk us through a wine tasting from his collection. Guests will have the opportunity to buy wine for CCSC's Wine Pull or their own personal cellar.



Mark your calendar for June 8, 6:00–8:00 p.m. and plan to join us to taste wine, enjoy exceptional art, and support CCSC's Azalea Gala Wine Pull. RSVP to Sara at spybus@ccschouston.org.



Seeking Bilingual Financial Coach

CCSC has an exciting opportunity for a Bilingual Financial Coach. This position is responsible for helping English and Spanish-speaking clients set and work toward their financial and business goals through coaching, education, and connection to community resources. This post primarily serves clients in CCSC's Employment programs, with a focus on CCSC's entrepreneurial-focused training programs in housekeeping and home caregiving.

For more information, visit [Job Opportunities | Christian Community Service Center \(ccschouston.org\)](#) To apply, please send a cover letter and resume, with "Coach" as the subject line, to: coach@ccschouston.org

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



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