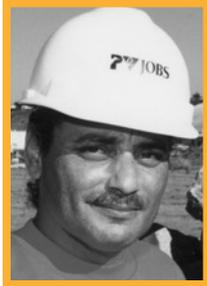


On Site

Playa Vista Job Opportunities and Business Services

Volume 4 Number 1 ■ Spring 2003

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ernest Roberts
Executive Director, PVJOBS

These appear to be difficult economic times for many nonprofits. The state of our economy is causing a dearth of available funding in many sectors. And yet, the work that nonprofits are doing is of substantial importance, both to the clients we serve and our collective society. Nonprofits must somehow learn to do more with less resources while finding ways to be even more efficient.

I trust that the current state of nonprofit fiscal affairs will certainly improve. In the meantime, however, collaborations and the sharing of resources have become even more important. By supporting each other and working together, we can maintain an outstanding level of service.

This added level of work and commitment may at first seem challenging, but every cloud has a silver lining. Often we are so absorbed in our own individual worlds that we miss the great work that is going on in our own neighborhoods. I suggest that we consider this an opportunity to discover what others are doing and to work even closer with those who are doing such excellent work. And in the process, we will experience organizational and personal growth.

Juan Alvarado: A Life That Came Full Circle

For many people, life's circumstances bring their lives to a full circle. That phenomenon aptly describes the life of Juan Alvarado, a hard working job developer for PVJOBS. His many years working as an educator and high-ranking administrator have aided him in flourishing in his new career at PVJOBS. But the lessons he learned from the darker years of his life equally contribute to his job success today.

Born in Mexico City, Alvarado later moved with his family to a suburb in Tacoma, Washington, where he graduated from high school. He then joined the Navy, serving in the Vietnam War. In Vietnam stationed along the DMZ, he worked aboard a hospital ship as an OR technician. "I felt very proud at that time of my life," he says.

After honorably discharging from military service at age 23, he made California his home. He attended Cal State University of Northridge, where he earned a bachelor's degree, and went on to finish his course work for a master's degree in history at Loyola Marymount University. Over the next decade, Alvarado worked at several colleges in a variety of administrative and teaching positions. He then left academic life to join Caltrans as a manager in the agency's real estate division.

But in 1992, his life took a downward spiral when he fell into the temptation of drugs. For eight years, Alvarado formed a gripping addiction to cocaine that unraveled his marriage of 22 years. When

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Juan Alvarado

PVJOBS Employment Update

Construction activities continue to move forward at the Playa Vista development site. Additional placements are being made at the East Central/Northeast Interceptor Sewer sites. We also expect to begin placements at the 2000 Avenue of the Stars project in Century City during the third quarter of this year as well as the Los Angeles Community College District's campus improvement project in the fourth quarter.

Our job development team is experiencing some success at placing our candidates in construction and related industries at

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PVJOBS at Work

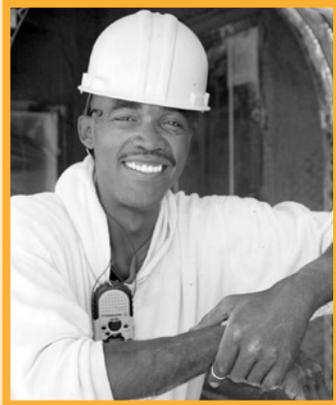
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Community Partners

PVJOBS At Work

Delanor Chapman: Finding A New Home

Delanor Chapman is a man of many skills, but pursuing a career as a laborer suits him just fine. The 36-year-old foreman oversees a four-member crew at the Playa Vista construction site, a job that has afforded him the stability he needs as a single father of two young sons. Although he feels that his job is quite enjoyable, Chapman adds, "I have to do what I can to put bread on the table."



Delanor Chapman

Chapman grew up embodying a solid work ethic at an early age. Born in a Detroit suburb, Chapman was nine when his family moved to Germany, where his father was stationed in the military. There, he discovered his natural interest of working with his hands and repairing fixtures around the house. He also developed a passion for music, mastering a number of instruments during his school years. He went to college dreaming of becoming a musician, but he later decided to enter law school because he felt a legal career was more practical.

Bored with his law studies and ready to return to the U.S. while in his mid 20s, Chapman decided to move near relatives in Nashville, eventually getting married there. He relied on his laborer skills to get work, and he soon earned a carpentry certificate from the Associated Builders & Contractors. When his marriage ended in divorce two years ago, he moved with his sons to Los Angeles to get a fresh start. He quickly found work as a grip for Fox Television, but was laid off shortly after being hired.

Focused on finding another job to support his boys, Chapman visited PVJOBS, which quickly took notice of his diverse laborer experience. Within six months of being hired by American Contractors, a Playa Vista contractor, Chapman was promoted to his current foreman position. "My job has given me a sense of security," he says. "I'm glad I was able to find PVJOBS."

West Angeles CDC EMPOWER Program: Creating A Working Community

Most Los Angeles residents have heard of the well-known West Angeles Church, but not as many are familiar with their recently opened job training and placement program. The West Angeles Community Development Corporation (CDC) EMPOWER Program was launched in April 2001 to help empower local residents who are striving to overcome critical barriers to obtain employment. Since their inception, the EMPOWER Program has placed more than half of their 170 participants. And as the program continues to expand, these figures are expected to significantly increase over the next several years.



EMPOWER Director Janet Welch

EMPOWER focuses on helping individuals who need to improve their job skills and become marketable in today's workforce. Program participants include welfare recipients, ex-offenders and individuals who have limited job skills or have been laid off. The program also provides case management services to assess each participant's job placement and retention success.

"Our community not only needs jobs, but careers that are sustainable and allow them to give back to society," says EMPOWER Director Janet Welch. "We need to create employment opportunities within our own communities, and there is enough talent out there to do so."

EMPOWER provides services in four phases. The first phase includes outreach, intake, and assessments of skills and career goals. In the second phase, participants learn how to develop life skills while receiving training in basic literacy, computer technology and vocational skills. The third phase teaches individuals how to develop interviewing and job search techniques. The final phase is the case management stage, which ensures that participants are placed and retained in suitable jobs that match their skill sets.

Welch says that having a confident outlook is a key factor in determining a participant's success in the program. "It's more than an attitude to be successful – it's a belief that they can change their situation. All they need is a chance."

Soon after opening their doors two years ago, EMPOWER part-

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PVJOBS

Employment Update

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sites beyond Playa Vista. All referrals to employment are made by utilizing our database and our existing selection procedures.

As of March 2003, 552 PVJOBS candidates have gained employment, filling more than 840 positions. A total of 161 candidates have completed a minimum of 500 hours, and seven candidates have completed more than 3,000 hours. We expect to fill an additional 200 to 250 positions this quarter at Playa Vista and elsewhere.

Bear in mind that many candidates listed in the table below are already working. We specifically need candidates to fill positions as sheet metal workers, operating engineers and electricians. Candidates for these specific trades need to submit an application to the applicable union and pass the union test before they are eligible for referral to work through PVJOBS. Please call us for more details at (310) 448-4684.

CONSTRUCTION TRADE	ACTIVE IN DATABASE
Carpenters	842
Flooring/Carpet Layers	48
Concrete Masons/Finishers	137
Electricians*	65
Iron Workers	166
Laborers	1356
Tile/Marble/Brick Masons	260
Operating Engineers*	15
Painters	394
Plasterers	111
Plumbers	249
Roofers	155
Sheet Metal Workers*	15

**Trades Specifically Needed*

West Angeles CDC EMPOWER Program: Creating A Working Community

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nered with PVJOBS to increase their job placement opportunities in the construction industry. "PVJOBS was very receptive to our partnership when we first contacted them," remembers Welch. "PVJOBS has been a blessing in helping us reach our goals."

Welch encourages the business community to see the "big picture" when developing partnerships with their program. "It's important to partner with businesses, but employers must have the desire to help the community because we're all in this together."

PVJOBS At Work

Tasia Cook: Worth The Struggle

Thirty-eight-year-old Tasia Cook always wanted to have six children, but she never envisioned raising them alone. Her single parenthood was only exacerbated by her longtime struggle to find consistent work, leading her to live on welfare for more than 15 years. That's why her recent hiring as a PVJOBS case manager has meant so much to her and her



Tasia Cook

family. "I'm thankful that PVJOBS gave me a chance," she says.

For years, Cook has searched for that chance. Raised along with her two brothers in Los Angeles, Cook at age 14 moved with her mother and siblings to San Diego after her parents divorced. When the family moved back to the Los Angeles area a few years later, Cook attended Garr High School in Cerritos, where she thrived in her studies and enjoyed being on the drill team. She later enrolled in Cerritos College, where she became a cheerleader. But after having her first child at age 21, she dropped out of college to work odd jobs and take care of her baby.

By age 30, Cook was married with four children. With the strain of the couple's ongoing financial struggles, the marriage ended by the time she had her sixth child. Struggling to raise her children, Cook worked as a part-time waitress and returned to Cerritos College to earn her associate arts degree. Although Cook enjoyed being a mother, her confidence in the workforce was often shaken. "It was hard at times and I wanted to give up," she says. "Sometimes when you're trying to do better, it seems like people are trying to push you back."

Determined to find a stable office job, Cook entered a computer-training program offered by the West Angeles CDC EMPOWER Program. The program led to a three-month on-the-job training assignment at PVJOBS last year. Her hard work and pleasant attitude caught the attention of the PVJOBS staff, which eventually hired her full time.

Now with a promising career, Cook feels a sense of liberation, both emotionally and financially. "Before this job I could barely pay my rent. With my new income, my family and I are able to enjoy life a lot better."

PVJOBS Community Partners

APPRENTICE PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Century Community Training (Ms. Clinkenbeard)	310/673-3941
Los Angeles Technology Center (Ms. Kerr)	323/732-1053
Testimonial Community Love Center (Mr. Hammond)	323/296-2082

WORKSOURCE CENTERS

Career Transition Worksource Center (George Fernandez)	562/570-3736
Community Centers WorkSource Center (Mr. Ruvalcaba)	323/752-2115
Compton Career Link WorkSource California (Mr. Smith)	310/605-3050
Hollywood WorkSource California (Ms. Gardner)	323/960-1300
L.A. Urban League W. Adams/B.H. WorkSource (Mr. Parham)	323/732-7867
Marina Del Rey WorkSource Career (Ms. Waters)	310/309-6000
Wilshire-Koreatown WorkSource Center (Mr. Wilson)	213/736-8567
Wilshire Metro WorkSource (Ms. Shakoor-Akbar)	323/365-9829
WLCAC Southeast/Watts WorkSource (Mr. Williams)	323/563-5669

YOUTH AND ADULT PROGRAMS

Chrysalis/New Directions (Ms. Fontaine)	310/914-4045
Chrysalis/Santa Monica (Ms. Zepeda)	310/392-4117
Communities in Schools (Mr. Arredondo)	818/891-9399
Community Build (Mr. Bektamba)	323/789-9950
CRTD FaithWorks (Mr. Russell)	310/673-0287
DARE U TO CARE (Ms. Parker)	323/756-3208
Employment Development Dept. S.M. Branch (Ms. Thomas)	310/576-6431
FAME Renaissance (Mr. Collier)	323/730-8354
Housing Authority of L.A. (WtW Division) (Ms. Rasheed)	213/252-1800
Jobs of the Future/Homeboy Industries (Father Boyle)	323/526-1254
Joint Efforts Inc. (Mr. Twain)	310/821-2358
IAM Care Carson (Ms. Kimbrough)	310/518-8235
L.A. Family Housing Corporation (Ms. Ramirez)	818/982-4091

(YOUTH AND ADULT PROGRAMS CONTINUED)

Mar Vista Family Center (Ms. Diaz)	310/390-9607
NO GUNS (Mr. Marroquin)	310/695-7438
Radio Sin Fronteras (Mr. Magallanes)	213/250-3319
Santa Monica Barrios Unidos (Mr. Lares)	310/453-9492
Save Our Future (Mr. Jordan)	323/544-0039
South Central Projects With Industry/SCRS (Ms. Williams)	310/345-5713
The WorkPlace (Mr. Solis)	213/386-1994
Union Rescue Mission (Mr. Hopkins)	213/347-6300
Unity One (Mr. Taylor)	213/963-5843
U.S. VETS (Ms. Harris)	310/348-7600
Walden House Inc. (Mr. Medina)	213/763-6238
West Angeles Community Development Corp. (Ms. Welch)	323/291-1472
WtW Partnership Bizlink L.A. Program (Ms. Samuels)	213/251-1436

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Archdiocesan Youth Employment Services (Mr. Gutierrez)	213/736-5456
Boyle Heights Youth Opportunity Movement (Mr. Burks)	323/260-4796
CCEO YouthBuild (Mr. Starks)	310/225-3060
Covenant House of California (Mr. Sterle)	323/957-7455
Goals for Life (Mr. Berry)	562/698-1501
L.A. Youth at Work (Ms. Herrera)	213/580-7505
PACE YouthBuild (Mr. Leonares)	213/580-0020
Peacekeeper ARK (Ms. Adams)	310/276-9046
United Friends of the Children (Ms. Raphael)	213/580-1850
VCHC YouthBuild (Ms. Murphy)	310/399-4100
YES YouthBuild (Mr. Whelchel)	323/567-0091
Watts Youth Opportunity Movement (Mr. Burks)	323/789-2773

For more information, call PVJOBS at 310/448-4684

Juan Alvarado: A Life That Came Full Circle

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his addiction became too crippling, he further comprised himself by making choices that years earlier he would have considered inconceivable. By the year 2000, he landed in prison for more than a year. Although his two children stood by him, he felt destitute. "Outside of that miracle, I lost everything," he says. "But more significantly, I lost my dignity."

Not long after serving his prison sentence, Alvarado visited a local Veteran's Administration facility to seek counseling on how to turn his life around. After asking about a veteran's assistance program called US VETS, his counselor assured him that it was a working program. Armed with a fervent desire to work again, Alvarado soon entered US VETS, where he enrolled in Veterans in Progress, a 90-day job program. It took Alvarado 97 days to land his current position with PVJOBS based at the Playa Vista construction site.

"In my work as a job developer, it's wonderful to assist people with problems similar to those I had, and lead them on the road to self-sufficiency and dignity," says Alvarado. "I owe a great debt of gratitude to US VETS – a debt that I will never be able to repay."