

Daily Work

Hands-on help for struggling job seekers

What would you freely give a friend if asked: Career advice? A ride to work? A place to sleep during a life transition? These are things most of us take for granted, but for many people experiencing poverty or joblessness, it is just one more asset they don't have.

At Daily Work, your support gives these things, and much more, to people who don't have a network of friends or family to help them out. **Would you believe only \$25 can support someone in their search for employment, in their desire to find better work to support their family, or in Dustan's case, in keeping his job?**

Just weeks ago, Dustan wondered every day whether he would arrive at his new job to learn that he had been fired. Without a car, he struggled to find transportation from the northern suburbs to his production job 20 miles away and arrive by 6:00 a.m. **Some days he spent more money than his wages to pay for round-trip cab fare, and he was often late to work.**



Complicating his transportation challenges was that Dustan was homeless. He and his girlfriend Nicole (*pictured above*), were staying in hotels, paying friends to sleep on couches, moving from one place to another, and towing all of their belongings in a few big, black garbage bags. Dustan had been living with relatives for months after being laid off from another job, but when he found a job in early October; he needed to live on his own.

"I'm a grown man and I have a job, responsibilities. My idea of life is that I can make it on my own," he said.

Even homeless shelters were not an option for the couple on most nights, due to extremely limited availability, complicated rules, and no assurance that a bed would be available for more than one night. Of the little money Dustan earned, what was left over after cab fare was used to pay for hotel bills, and sometimes food. Once, Nicole even resorted to selling food stamps to pay for housing so that she would not

be stranded in the hotel parking lot after the noon checkout deadline, waiting hours for Dustan to return from work, only to find out again they had no place to stay for the night. And Nicole had discovered she was pregnant.

“We were so stressed out, constantly worried and hungry,” Nicole said. They knew that finding an apartment close to Dustan’s work so he could keep his job, would improve their situation, but they weren’t familiar with housing in the area.



Producing a notebook filled with contact numbers and notes about social service agencies, Nicole recalled the frustration of trying to find real help. “I’d call one number, then they would tell me to call another number, and then another, until I would get a disconnected number, or no one would call me back, or the services had changed,” she said. “We weren’t looking for anything specific, just somewhere to sleep, where our belongings would be safe and we wouldn’t have to wonder where we would be the next night.”

By chance, they learned about Daily Work through a family member. **In one marathon Saturday afternoon, Daily Work was able to help Dustan and Nicole secure an apartment located one mile from Dustan’s workplace. Quick-turnaround grants provided by Daily Work social service partners helped the couple pay the apartment’s damage deposit and also afforded them a few necessities to set up house.**

“Things take time and patience and everything would have worked out eventually,” Nicole said. “But without the personalized help we got from Daily Work, all of the places we could find on our own were too expensive, too far away or not available fast enough.”

Today, Dustan and Nicole are cozy and relaxed as they share their story from their living room, which contains one loveseat, a few end tables, and a bed -- all donated to them by friends of Daily Work. Now Dustan arrives at work rested and on time. Nicole is carefully planning for the baby. They acknowledge that there is more work to come... They plan to continue to utilize Daily Work’s advice and resources for how to move forward effectively, because now, instead of worried and hungry, **“We are awesome and wonderful. Thanks to Daily Work, we are comfortable, safe, happy and employed,” Nicole said.**

People like you made it possible for Dustan to keep his job, qualify for an apartment, and now provide for Nicole and the baby on the way. Now we need your support to help the more than 50 people like them on our waiting list.

At Daily Work, our mission is to assist job seekers who are able and willing to work, but for a variety of reasons, are unable to successfully secure employment or acquire the other resources they need, on their own. We fill that gap by providing personalized coaching, mentoring, and resources to help them address their immediate needs and craft a plan to achieve and maintain permanent, living-wage work.

Your support provides job seekers with the one-to-one support they need to find and keep work.

Thanks to you, this year Daily Work has helped more than 120 unique people make real progress in their quest to become self-sufficient, including helping them find 41 new jobs.

In addition to joblessness and under-employment, more than 25 percent of our job seekers are struggling with homelessness, finding affordable housing, and having adequate food and clothing. In addition, 50 percent rely on public transportation, requiring them to find a job on a bus line that they can work at during the hours the busses are running. As you can imagine, these challenges greatly impact someone's ability to find and keep work.

For Daily Work, this means that in addition to writing resumes and cover letters, assisting with job applications, teaching interview skills, and doing other job search-related tasks; we also search for housing, work with homeless shelters, identify free resources for clothing and food, help people find driver's ed courses or English language classes, go back to school, and so much more. But providing this holistic approach requires well-trained volunteers, extensive outreach and collaboration, and resources to buy bus passes and office supplies.



Here are specific ways your support makes a difference.

- ~ \$500 buys a new computer that job seekers use to find and apply for new jobs
- ~ \$250 provides 25 people with one hour of one-to-one coaching and job search assistance
- ~ \$100 provides a one-month bus pass to someone starting a new job
- ~ \$50 supplies professional attire to two people going to job interviews
- ~ \$25 pays for 1000 print-outs of resumes, cover letters, and other materials critical to job seekers

By helping just *one* Daily Work job seeker find work, you help put more than \$14,000 in annualized earnings back into our community in the form of purchases

for food, clothing and shelter. That's more than 12x's the amount it costs Daily Work to help that person find work.

Right now, you can be a friend to someone who needs your help. By supporting Daily Work today, you will provide our job seekers with the career advice, transportation assistance, or place to sleep they need to move forward, find work and become self-sufficient.

With more than 50 job seekers on our waiting list right now, today, more than ever, people like Dustan and Nicole need your friendship and support.

On behalf of all of us at Daily Work, **thank you** for giving the gift of work to a deserving job seeker this year.

My warmest greetings to you,

Julie Hoff
Executive Director

PS: Your gift of \$100 will provide 10 people with one hour of personalized coaching and career advice...and put them on the path to self-sufficiency. If you prefer, donate online at <http://givemn.razoo.com/story/Daily-Work>