

One Mother's Dedication

Fueled by the desire to support herself and her two sons, Frehiwot did everything she could to find work. After immigrating to Minnesota from a refugee camp in Kenya, where she successfully had managed a hair salon, she spent almost two years attending skills classes, working on her English, and visiting the public library to browse and apply for jobs. But she was losing hope.

Frehiwot (pictured with her son Nehemiah) will tell you that she found hope at Daily Work, but it was really the personal coaching and critical building blocks for employment that gave her the confidence to keep trying and the skills to succeed.



At Daily Work, your support gives these things, and much more, to people who have the drive and determination, but need extra help to find work and succeed in today's economy. **Would you believe only \$25 can provide the help they need to find a job and support their family?**

Before finding Daily Work, Frehiwot said, she didn't have anything and she cried all the time. "I felt ashamed," she said. Her desperate situation and cultural background were dominating Frehiwot's demeanor in interviews. Her downcast gaze and barely audible voice were sabotaging her efforts.

Through weekly visits to Daily Work's office, Frehiwot learned essential interviewing techniques and began to believe in a brighter future for her family.

"I am a different person now. I learned to look people in the eyes during interviews. I talk louder and keep my head up. We practiced interview questions and now I know how to give the answers," she said. "Every day I went to Daily Work, they showed me that I had a good future. Sometimes I would cry, and they cried with me. Sometimes I was hungry. But they showed me that even if I didn't get a job that day, I might get a job tomorrow."

Through persistence and her renewed confidence, Frehiwot landed a full-time job as a custodian. Her daily commute requires riding two buses and a train each morning and evening, and she is away from home and her elementary and high school aged sons for more than twelve hours a day.

“Finally I got a job, it’s wonderful. It’s such a good feeling to buy things for my children,” she said. She’s taking on new challenges. “My job is a little bit hard, but I learned many different cleaning machines that I didn’t know before, and how to open things with a screwdriver.” And she’s planning her next steps.



“I have been in my job for one month and eighteen days (Frehiwot at work, left). Each day, I wake up before 6 a.m., when I come back, it’s after 6:30 p.m. It’s hard to be so far away from my children, but now I have something: my future. I hope to [move on to] a better job, I want to continue my education, and all of it is because of Daily Work,” she said. So far, she has completed courses in nursing assistance, customer service, computer skills and supervisory skills.

She knows she still has work to do, including practicing English. “When I came here, I knew some English, because Kenyans speak it, but my language was very bad,” she acknowledged. “I took a course, I know the reading and writing, but the talking is difficult.”

She’s also trying to get her driver’s license so that she can spend less time getting to and from work, and more time at home with her family. “Daily Work helped me get a grant to get my driver’s license and I started driving school. I will take my test in a few weeks. My life is changing day by day. I am so happy, many things are so wonderful, not only for me. Many people I know who go to Daily Work have a better future, a good life.”

People like you made it possible for Frehiwot to get the help she needed to find a full-time, living wage job. You can help more people like Frehiwot find living wage work by supporting Daily Work right now.

Our mission is to assist job seekers who are able and willing to work, but for a variety of reasons, are struggling to secure employment and acquire other helpful resources, 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.

Thanks to you, this year Daily Work has helped more than 60 people find new jobs and as Frehiwot says, new hope for “a better future, a good life.”

In addition to joblessness and under-employment, more than 25 percent of Daily Work's 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.

For Daily Work, this means that in addition to writing resumes and cover letters, assisting with job applications, and teaching interview skills; 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 financial resources to buy bus passes, pay referral fees, and provide an office and fill it with necessary supplies.

Here are specific ways your support helps people like Frehiwot and Ingrid (pictured here with Ger, Daily Work intern/volunteer).

- \$1,200 ~ Finds one person a new job
- \$500 ~ Buys a new computer for our computer lab
- \$250 ~ Provides 25 people with one hour of 1:1 coaching and job search assistance
- \$125 ~ Supplies 75 bus tokens for people who need help getting to interviews
- \$75 ~ Buys a bus pass for someone with a new job
- \$50 ~ Supplies professional attire for two job seekers
- \$25 ~ Creates 1000 copies of resumes, cover letters, and more

When just **one** Daily Work job seeker finds work, it results in more than \$14,000 in average, annualized earnings....that's more than 12x's the amount it costs Daily Work to help that person find work.

For people like Frehiwot, every day without a job is a reason for more tears. Your support today gives our job seekers the application assistance, bus passes, coaching, and hope to keep fighting until they too, can find a great job that brings them financial stability and the resources they need to support their families and have a good life.

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

