Daily Work Making Connections

LATEST NEWS FALL WINTER 2026



We're More Than a Place to Find Employment

When a friend introduced Elias to Daily Work (DW) in 2017, he was earning $13.96/hour at a hospitality company. Four jobs later, his wages have more than doubled, he's purchased a home, welcomed three kids, and is preparing for his next career move. We've been alongside for nine years and counting…

Hoping to build a better life, Elias came to the U.S. from Ethiopia in 2008 through the Diversity Visa (DV) Lottery. Over the years, he's turned that hope into reality.

In 2021, we helped him secure a position with the U.S. Postal Service at $20/hour. Today, he earns $31/hour plus shift differentials, overtime, and other benefits.

Now, he is setting his sights on new goals. Building on his experience doing electrical work in his home country, Elias is studying for his Special Boiler's License. Encouraged by his supervisor, he hopes to move into a U.S.P.S. maintenance position where he could earn nearly $40/hour.

Meanwhile, life outside work has flourished. His wife arrived in the U.S. just one week before the 2020 COVID-19 shutdowns and DW recently helped her secure a hospital job earning $19/hour. Today, they're raising three young children in the Oakdale townhouse they purchased 18 months ago.

Through it all, Daily Work has remained a trusted partner to Elias.

Through it all, Daily Work has remained a trusted partner to Elias. Years ago, we referred him to citizenship classes at the International Institute of Minnesota. Now, we're helping him renew his passport, while his wife plans to pursue citizenship

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2026 A Year of Change. A Foundation for Greater Impact.

From Executive Director Julie Hoff

If there is one word that describes 2026 at Daily Work, it's change. We've welcomed new faces, revised and grown programs, strengthened partnerships, and adapted to the evolving needs of those we serve.

It was also a year of hardship. Increased ICE activity and immigration enforcement created fear and disruption for many families, adding stress and instability for job seekers already facing significant barriers.

Amid these challenges, our community responded with extraordinary generosity. In May, our most successful Steps to Success event ever raised $200,000! Rooted in a shared belief in our mission, this generosity equips DW to strengthen our team, expand services, and invest in the future."

New People, New Energy, New Possibilities

Saying goodbye to valued colleagues has been bittersweet. We miss them and their talents and contributions, but we're also excited for their personal and professional growth opportunities.

In October, we welcomed Tanya Anderson as our Director of Programs and Impact. She brings experienced leadership and perspective, and a focus on strengthening services and measuring impact. By year end, we will welcome a new Case Manager and Social Work Practicum Supervisor.

Fully launched in September, our Practice Driving & Road Test Prep program reached its first milestone in October, when students began taking their road tests, a major step in overcoming transportation barriers.

This fall, 10 new volunteers joined us with talents ranging from case management and job seeker support, to bookkeeping and data quality. Their skills and generosity bring fresh energy and capacity to our work.

Investing in Our People and Our Future

Growth also requires investment in the infrastructure behind our work. More programs, staff, volunteers, and interns mean greater needs for training, supervision, technology, and coordination.

Equally important is investing in our people. Building on our SIMPLE IRA retirement plan, DW now offers medical, dental, and vision insurance. These benefits help us attract and retain talented staff and provide the quality employment we advocate for.

While less visible than program outcomes, these investments strengthen our ability to deliver consistent, responsive services for years to come.

Thank You for Investing in What's Next

Knowing we have a community that believes in our mission, stands with us through challenges, and responds when the need is greatest means more than I can express. Your generosity provides essential resources, and the confidence and encouragement to keep moving forward.

As we approach the year's end, I hope you'll make a gift to invest in the stronger, more sustainable organization we're building. Your donation will support the people, services, and infrastructure that make our work possible. Thank you for standing with Daily Work and helping to build a better future for all!

Elias *His Daily Work Story Continued From Page 1*

next year. We also helped the couple navigate family and parental leave following the birth of their third child.

Elias continues building upon his skills. One of the first recipients of a computer through our TECI program in 2021, he recently received a second to support his continued learning.

"I love it," Elias exclaims. "Any problem, they solve. Resume, job application, paperwork, passport. I come, and two or three weeks later, I get my problem solved."

"Elias is a wonderful example of the power of Daily Work," says Executive Director Julie Hoff. "We all need people to ask questions of and think through challenges. Elias makes the most of that partnership. He's proactive, motivated, and committed."

Elias sees us as much more than a place to find work. "For almost a decade, Daily Work has been part of my family."

Join Us For Equity Chats

It's a monthly Saturday morning Zoom series where we come together to reflect, learn, and build community. Guided by a shared book, article, or video, each session reflects our commitment to fostering an anti-racist and anti-oppressive culture. Find out more at *daily-work.org/news-events/equity-chats.html*.



Legacy of Love, Connection, and Generosity

One Man's Commitment Continues to Change Lives



It began with a simple act of kindness. Karin Larson and Dick Schultz regularly helped neighbors with snow removal. When they learned of David's health challenges, they offered to assist him, although they'd never met. He asked them in, sparking a friendship that would touch their lives, and the lives of many others.

"David had such an interest in people," Karin said. "Of course, he invited us inside." They discovered shared values, similar upbringings, and a mutual belief in caring for others. Over time, his exceptional cooking and lively conversations became part of a cherished friendship. About two years before David's death, he asked Karin and Dick to serve as trustees of his estate.

For David, who died in May after a long battle with COPD, relationships were at the heart of everything. He had a gift for cultivating connections that spanned decades, and his belief in the importance of caring for one another extended beyond his personal life.

As VP of Operations for CBR Inc., a company operating airport stores, David traveled extensively, building friendships with diverse people. He took pride in developing team members from around the world, recognizing their talents and skills.

His experiences shaped a commitment to giving back, especially to organizations supporting newcomers, home ownership, and survivors of domestic violence.

Karin and Dick, loyal Daily Work supporters, introduced David to us. They knew our organization through their church, Christ the King Lutheran in New Brighton, a longtime community partner. David began giving in 2019 and never stopped. He appreciated our focus on immigrants, the personal approach, measurable results, and how much our small staff accomplished.

He brought that same thoughtfulness to his final arrangements, planning everything from the music and flowers to a 'non-negotiable' candle board symbolizing how individual lives shine brighter together.

He was equally thoughtful about his legacy, with his estate benefiting 19 organizations so far. His gifts to Daily Work included his car and two monetary contributions totaling nearly $50,000.

As Karin and Dick carried out David's wishes they visited each nonprofit he chose, shared his story, met people doing extraordinary work, and saw the impact of his generosity.

"We know this money is making a difference, and that means a lot. That's his legacy."

"We know this money is making a difference, and that means a lot," they reflected. "That's his legacy."

The experience has also changed how they think about their own giving. With six children, Karin and Dick had always assumed their estate would be divided among family. Now, they've begun to consider how they might also leave a lasting impact on causes that matter to them.

Karin has discovered new organizations she wants to support. And for Dick, the experience has brought an unexpected sense of fulfillment. "I have found such joy in making a difference," he shared.

Perhaps that's David's greatest legacy. He spent his life bringing people together, seeing their strengths, and spreading kindness. And through the lives he touched, his light continues to shine.

David was known for ending every conversation with "Be good to yourself." Thank you, David, for being so good to others.



What Will Your Legacy Be?

You, too, can invest in people and their futures. Including Daily Work in your will, or naming us as a beneficiary of a retirement account or life insurance policy will help more people pursue meaningful work and greater economic security. To learn more:

Visit our website *daily-work.org/support-us/ways-to-give.html*

Email Julie Hoff at *julie@daily-work.org*



David on the right

Honoring the legacy gift of David G. Barthold, 1946–2026



Tanya Anderson

We're thrilled to welcome Tanya Anderson (pronounced TAN-yuh, as in fan!) – our new Director of Programs and Impact. She brings more than 20 years of experience leading teams, designing programs, and advancing equity across healthcare, education, and government systems. We asked her a few questions to get acquainted.

Q: What drew you to Daily Work?

A: First and foremost, the mission. The model is unique. We're one of the few organizations working with new Americans that hasn't had to change its model or stop its work due to funding cuts. We're offering important stability at a time when people really need it. I'm also excited to be part of Daily Work's next level of growth, bringing new ideas and strengthening our systems.

Q: What experiences have shaped your approach to working with people?

A: Some of my most meaningful work has involved human-centered design. I like being close to the work, seeing what's necessary to make an impact, and bringing the right people to the table.

Q: What's stood out to you about DW so far?

A: I'm only 10 days in, so I could be wrong! But my first impression is that it's truly a learning organization. I expected that with the interns, but it feels like learning is part of the broader culture. I want to bring that spirit of curiosity and continuous improvement to all my interactions.

Q: Why is employment so important to a self-determined life?

A: Employment is connected to almost everything. People coming here may not have the generational knowledge or resources to establish themselves. You can't even apply for a job without a phone or email. People's self-worth is deeply tied to employment. So many don't have access, and here we're building that pathway.

Q: What might surprise people about you?

A: I love trying new things, exploring new places, and sharing experiences. I also find being outdoors incredibly restorative, like feeling the wind in my hair. At home, I enjoy time with my husband, our two college-age daughters, and our two dogs.

Q: What gives you hope?

A: The next generation. I'm not kidding! They've lived through some wild things. They're brave, aware, want more… They don't just accept things as they are.

Growing Together

Sunflower Award Goes to Mari Jo Long



Mari Jo Long's relationship with Daily Work began with rejection. In 2012, she applied for a part-time Volunteer Coordinator position. She didn't get the job, but the mission stayed with her. Julie Hoff saw something special in Mari Jo, and they stayed connected. Three years later, that relationship led Mari Jo to join our board.

But her service nearly ended early. After missing several meetings, Mari Jo considered resigning. She remembers watching the Chicago Cubs during the 2016 World Series when Julie called and convinced her to stay.

"She brought curiosity, thoughtfulness, and a gentle but purposeful leadership style," Julie recalls. "She challenges assumptions with kindness, respect, and a deep commitment to equity."

During her tenure – a decade on the board including four years as Chair – Mari Jo helped us grow from five to 16 board members, and staff increased from 1.4 to nearly four, plus 2.5 AmeriCorps members.

She's especially proud of the 2022 strategic plan, which clarified the organization's identity and named its intention to center immigrants in its services and partnerships. Mari Jo believes deeply in Daily Work's comprehensive approach and next-level relationships that foster a sense of family and shared purpose.

"Daily Work has been such a special place for me," Mari Jo reflects. "It shaped my approach to work and the kind of leader I want to be." Today, she is Executive Director of Jeremiah Program's St. Paul campus, one of nine nationwide.

Her journey reflects a defining part of DW's culture: recognizing what each person brings to our community and supporting one another in pursuing our goals. As we grow, so does our opportunity to live out that commitment.

For her service, we're happy to present Mari Jo with this year's Sunflower Award, which recognizes individuals whose dedication builds a more vibrant community.

"Daily Work is full of extraordinary people," Mari Jo says. "You don't come here to do something easy. You come because you believe in the work, and you get to do it alongside brilliant, committed people who care passionately about building a community where everyone can thrive."

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Our 2026 EOY Pledge Envelope is Enclosed



Together, we're stitching a stronger community. From jobs to careers and everything in between, this year's stories show what we can accomplish together. Your gift weaves even more stories of hope and opportunity! Gifts made by December 31st will be matched 3-to-1, multiplying your impact.

GIVE TO THE MAX: November 1–19 go to *GiveMN.org/organization/Daily-Work*.

OR by December 31 give by mail using the enclosed envelope, or go to our website *Daily-Work.org*. Thank you!

Donate by Dec. 31 & your gift will be tripled!

Link to DW website