



“Immediately, I noticed I had a lot in common with job seekers,” says former Daily Work social work intern Mai (pronounced “My”) who immigrated to Minnesota from Laos in 2010. “Moving to another country, learning English, looking for a job, caring for my family, and going to school is very hard.”

From May–December 2020, Mai provided one-to-one services to job seekers. Her internship was a partnership between Daily Work and Metropolitan State University, which is one of several social work programs of local schools that partner with us.

As part of these partnerships, Daily Work offers training and oversight by a licensed social worker, while students provide case management services. Job seekers benefit from the passionate support of interns like Mai, and students gain skills, prepare for careers in social work, and fulfill graduation requirements.

“You understand me and what I’m going through.”

Of her intern experience at Daily Work, Mai recalls many of the people she worked with saying, “I like talking to you. You understand me and what I’m going through.”

“Student interns are a key part of Daily Work’s identity as an organization,” says Executive Director Julie Hoff. “Their energy and experiences bring a fresh perspective to everything we do. Plus, helping students apply the knowledge, values,



GETTING BACK TO WORK!

From Julie Hoff, Executive Director

In June, I moved out of my kitchen and back into the office for the first time in 15 months. Opening our doors to in-person visits and walk-in appointments gave our staff, volunteers, students, and job seekers a new wave of energy.

Zoom and Google Meet are not replacements for community and connection.

Like many organizations, Daily Work is blending virtual, in-person, and walk-in services to meet the full spectrum of individual needs and preferences. The number of people we served in summer 2021 was up 60% compared to 2020, telling us that our job seekers – despite juggling a myriad of transportation, childcare, job, and other needs – prefer the personal touch that coming to the office provides.

To meet this demand we welcomed six new interns, up from four last fall. This increase required hiring Marissa Jensen, a former intern who is now an experienced, master-degreed social worker, to maintain student support, oversight, and assessment quality.

Daily Work's relationships with colleges provide more than interns. Through our partnership with St. Catherine University, we are part of a program evaluation research project being conducted by social work faculty member (and Daily Work Internships Director), Dr. Carey Winkler, and student research assistant, Celina Blanco-Ramirez.

The evaluation is focused on our case management services. We are excited to better understand the reasons job seekers use our services, how that intersects with obtaining employment, and to what degree the services are culturally responsive – information critical to a new strategic planning process beginning in 2022.



As part of our evaluation efforts, we check in every 90 days with people who received services in the past year. This touch point is also a critical step to engaging job seekers in preparing for additional career steps and personal development.

Do you remember Larry (pictured) from our May 18 Steps to Success virtual event? He started a job the same day that we filmed him. In just six months, Larry was able to leverage his experience into a new cooking position that pays an extra \$2/hour and offers management potential.

We are more committed than ever about the need to advance services and programming to ensure all job seekers can be full participants in the workplace and the community. Our greatest asset is each other – and your partnership provides the foundation for Daily Work’s person-centered, strengths-based, supportive employment services for our job seekers. Thank you for being here!



Larry's Easy Pasta Serves up to 4 people

- 12 oz Cooked pasta (fettuccine, linguine, spaghetti)
- 1 C Heavy whipping cream
- ½ C Grated Parmesan (Optional: extra cheese to top)
- Pinch Dried or freshly minced parsley, or other herbs
- Salt & pepper to taste
- Optional: cooked meat, shrimp, and/or veggies

Cook pasta according to directions and drain. In small sauté pan on medium heat bring cream to a simmer. Add Parmesan; stir until thickened. Add pasta and optional ingredients; stir until heated through. Mound onto plate; sprinkle with herbs, salt & pepper, and optional cheese. Top with squeeze of lemon juice if you like. Enjoy!

Mai

Cont. from pg. 1

and skills of the social work profession at Daily Work prompts us to manifest those principles every day.”

For Mai, the internship provided the training and confidence she needed to launch her social work career. “I’m much more comfortable talking with different people and navigating systems,” she states. In fact, one of her job interviews included a mock scenario that required Mai to write case notes. “I was nervous, but I wrote a lot of case notes at Daily Work.”

After the second interview, JusticePoint, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of evidence-informed criminal justice programs, practices, and policies, offered Mai a position as a Pretrial Case Manager. She started in July 2021. “There is a lot to learn, but I’m ready,” Mai declares.

The Six Core Values of Social Work

These values sum up how Daily Work strives to live its mission every day:

- ① Service
- ② Social Justice
- ③ Dignity and Worth of the Person
- ④ Importance of Human Relationships
- ⑤ Integrity
- ⑥ Competence



Linda Lopez's degree in counseling psychology led her into a job as a high school counselor. "I really like high school kids," says Linda. "They want to be listened to." However, several interstate moves made credentialing difficult, and so did finding the right schools for her kids.

"I ended up home schooling my kids. I tried to transition the older two back into public schools, but they weren't interested." The kids liked their experiences and relationships in the diverse home-schooling community. "As the kids started getting older ... I started consulting with students and parents on how to finish high school and transition into college and jobs. I also started teaching classes like study skills, career planning, and personal finance."

"She was a natural fit for Daily Work," according to Executive Director Julie Hoff. "All of her skills were relevant to our job seekers."

Linda found Daily Work through Opportunity St. Paul, a program of Interfaith Action. She started volunteering two years ago with a couple of job seekers. Now she mentors six.

“Job seekers share a lot of their lives with you. It becomes personal.”

Her job seekers have come from places across the world such as Nepal, Africa, and Columbia. The skills and experiences of individuals have been equally varied and include a teacher, a certified welder, and immigrants with advanced degrees.

"The reward is the relationships that I've been able to form, even the short-term ones," says Linda. "Job seekers share a lot of their lives with you. It becomes personal. I knew they would have barriers, but hearing about their experiences firsthand is different."

“One person didn’t have any money to put gas in their car or to pay for car insurance. They were terrified about getting pulled over without insurance. Driving to a new job that doesn’t produce income for two or three weeks was a huge risk for that job seeker,” she observes.

COVID has also backed up the DMV and driving schools, making people wait months to get classes or take the license test. Public transportation is expensive and offers fewer routes and times than pre-COVID. “So if you get a job that runs four-hour shifts, and it costs you an hour’s work to use public transportation, the math doesn’t work very well,” Linda says.

She also sees discrimination against older women, especially immigrants and those with accents. “Even with credentials, it is difficult for older women to get hired,” she notes.

In the face of so many obstacles, Linda is impressed by how much job seekers, especially newcomers, accomplish. “They research, resource, figure out how to navigate systems.”

Now that job searches are all automated and online, even applying for a janitor position requires a computer, portal logins, and fast-turnaround email responses. “That’s what makes Daily Work so great. If someone only has a phone [and no computer], we can expedite applications because we have the technology and capabilities.”



Daily Work is a partner of Opportunity Saint Paul, a volunteer connection program of Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul that matches volunteers with nonprofits focused on advancing economic mobility.

“Daily Work was an original partner agency,” says Sarah Peterka, Director of Opportunity Saint Paul & Congregations Engagement. “We sought out partners that provided pathways out of poverty and offered transformational volunteer opportunities, making Daily Work a natural fit.”

The partnership deepens each year as people, like Linda, choose Daily Work as their place of community service – including former and/or current volunteers Christy, Abeba, Dave and Jana, pictured left to right above, at an Interfaith Action event.

TECI

Technology Essentials Core Initiative

Tech is a basic need in today's world, and our Technology Essentials Core Initiative (TECI) is addressing digital literacy head-on. Daily Work equips job seekers with laptops and internet service, but unlike other programs, ours provides personal installation to ensure that people not only have a computer, but that they can use it.

TECI was launched in May 2021. Implementation required a six-month process to develop guidelines, with interns and volunteers playing key roles. The TECI committee developed a selection process, created tracking documentation in our database, and developed a program evaluation assessment tool. We anticipate supplying 20 people with laptops by the end of 2021, and hope to give out 30 more in 2022.



Volunteer tech-enthusiast Debi Clapsaddle has been setting up and delivering computers, and teaching basic use skills. “I enjoy meeting new people from different cultures and lifestyles. It is amazing to see the joy and excitement when a job seeker receives their computer,” Debi says. “Knowing that [it] will provide help in their school, personal, and work lives is a great feeling.”

“A huge benefit of Daily Work’s program is assistance.”

Job seeker Tracey received a laptop in May. Since then, she’s been able to secure regular hours with a staffing agency and pick up side jobs. “I’m glad that I no longer have to do everything on my phone, which is not secure. It also saves time, energy, and money because I used to go to the library to work on projects and documents,” she states.

“A huge benefit of Daily Work’s program is assistance if the computer doesn’t work,” says Tracey. She received a refurbished computer from another organization and



suddenly it didn't work. They were going to charge her for the repair, so she chose to give it back. "I was fortunate to get a Daily Work laptop. They not only hand-delivered it, but provided orientation to use it, and offered repair help if needed!"

Brookings Institution research estimates that in the current century US jobs requiring digital skills have already quadrupled, while those not requiring tech skills decreased to less than 30%. Through TECl we are preparing job seekers for today's employment and positioning them to advance tomorrow.



It is not an understatement to say that without Christ Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill in Saint Paul and Christ the King Lutheran Church in New Brighton, Daily Work would not be here today.

From office space, to benevolence and grants, to mentors and programming, the churches' leaderships and congregations have continuously supported East Metro job seekers in developing and achieving their employment and life goals. From the time of our inception, their support has provided a foundation for guiding 2,500+ individuals. This has blossomed into an extensive circle of volunteers, employers, higher-education institutions, nonprofits, and community members that make Daily Work what it is today.



Christ on Capitol Hill

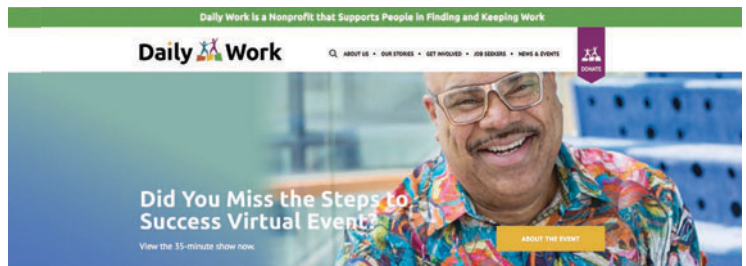


Christ the King

For their ambassadorship, length of service, and dedication to serving job seekers, we name these foundational institutions as the recipients of our 2021

Sunflower Award. This award recognizes people and partners whose loyalty of service has been central to creating a more caring, equitable, and vibrant community.

Take a look at our new website



Learn more about the impact of your support, read our blog, and see videos (including the 2021 Steps to Success event). www.daily-work.org

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For many Daily Work job seekers, it's their case manager. Your donation will ensure people can continue to achieve their work and life goals. Contribute by using the enclosed envelope, through our website's donation portal, or at GiveMN.org. Until December 31, all gifts up to \$20,000 will be matched 2-to-1 to **triple your impact!**

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TO THE
MAX
Nov. 18, 2021

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