



Not long ago, Tanesha lived in a neighborhood where safety was a constant concern and she often felt isolated. Hoping for a new beginning, she and her young daughter moved into temporary shelter housing – a brief refuge that provided only 75 days to start fresh. With the clock ticking, Tanesha knew she couldn't sit back and wait for something to happen. Determined to build a safer, more stable future for her family, she set out to find the help she needed.

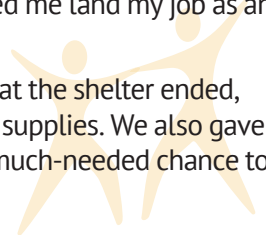
"I couldn't get approved for most apartments. My income was very low. Without childcare I was homeschooling my daughter, and the shelter had little access to technology for job searching. I felt completely trapped," shared Tanesha.

That's when a family friend introduced her to Daily Work. It changed everything.

"Daily Work was there for me in every way; my case manager went above and beyond..."

"The shelter could only offer limited support. But Daily Work was there for me in every way; my case manager went above and beyond to find resources that helped me move forward. She even provided a reference that helped me land my job as an after-school elementary teacher."

Our team helped Tanesha find a new home before her time at the shelter ended, providing gas cards, gift cards for essentials, and household supplies. We also gave her and her daughter tickets to their first Twins game for a much-needed chance to relax and have fun after months of hardship.





Immediately Putting Your Generosity to **WORK**

From Executive Director Julie Hoff


Our Community is Facing Serious Challenges


As you know, anti-immigrant rhetoric is spreading, ICE activity is increasing, and long-time Federal programs that support the most vulnerable are being slashed. This creates fear and uncertainty for families right here in Minnesota. And it paints a picture of immigrants and other economically disadvantaged people that simply isn't true.


But we see the truth every day: the folks we serve are resilient, resourceful, and essential to the health and vitality of our communities. That's why your support matters more now than ever.


When You Give, We Put Your Donations Right to Work

I'm grateful to share the tangible progress your generosity has made possible in just the five months since our Steps to Success celebration in May.

 In October, we launched a Practice Driving Program that gives people with permits the supervised experience they need to pass their road tests. (See page 5.)

 We strengthened our team, increasing staff hours at the equivalent of one-third of a position. It may look small, but it represents more consistency and capacity to serve job seekers whose needs are urgent and complex.

 We piloted a partnership with MORE community resources, an organization that provides English language classes and other supports. With interns serving at MORE, people could more easily access Daily Work's employment services without having to make another trip.

 After months of planning, we launched Prosperity Ready. This program guides immigrants with college degrees in navigating the U.S. job market, helping them put their education and skills to work in careers that match their talents. Read more at daily-work.org/get-services/prosperity-ready.html.

Thank You for Standing With Job Seekers

Your giving shows what a caring community looks like! Let's keep the momentum going. With our year-end donation drive starting, we can build on these successes and ensure every job seeker has more opportunities to thrive!



Create lasting opportunity with an estate gift, stock donation, donor-advised fund, or IRA charitable distribution. Learn more by emailing julie@daily-work.org or visit daily-work.org/support-us/ways-to-give.html.



We're excited to introduce Case Manager Edder Hernandez who joined Daily Work this fall. Edder brings a rich background in workforce development and advocacy, most recently serving as a Workforce Program Trainer at Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul. There, he launched the organization's first career pathways program, built partnerships with employers, and created job-readiness workshops to prepare newcomers for success in the American workforce.

Before that, as a Family Advocate, Edder supported asylum-seeking Latine families with resource navigation and moves from mobile shelter to long-term housing. He mentored teens, coordinated volunteers, connected families with community opportunities including school soccer programs and university engagement, translated documents, and assisted individuals in obtaining Minnesota IDs and opening bank accounts. Fluent in Spanish, he is skilled at relationship building that opens doors.

Edder says his passion for direct service began early. "I've always been drawn to helping others. As a camp counselor, I supported kids in whatever way they needed; those moments planted the seeds for my future in case management."

"Every question is welcome, every voice is heard, and everything we do has purpose."

He describes Daily Work as "both a well-oiled machine and a nutty family. Every question is welcome, every voice is heard, and everything we do has purpose." That sense of quirky teamwork sealed his desire to join the team.

On his second interview, "Someone pulled out the biggest fly swatter I've ever seen and smacked a fly so hard the table shook," he laughs. "It was weird, hilarious, and incredibly human – it showed me how great the team dynamic is."

With job seekers, Edder aims for each meeting to end with people feeling lighter, more hopeful, and valued. If someone walks away more confident or achieving something on their list, "then I feel like I'm doing what I'm here to do." Outside of work he enjoys time with his dog, Metro, exploring new restaurants and coffee shops, traveling, thrifting, and taking photos with his film camera.



Every May 26, Daily Work Board Member Ibrahim Hirsi takes time to reflect on his journey from Somalia to the U.S. Arriving as a teen, he carried a dream: to build a meaningful career and life. With determination and support from many, Ibrahim completed a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism and a Master's in History. This December, he will earn his Ph.D. in History from the University of Minnesota.

Ibrahim has also built a successful career as a journalist and writer of stories that illuminate immigrant experiences in the Twin Cities. As a DW board member, his lived experience and professional expertise shape his commitment to the mission: connecting immigrants and job seekers to meaningful employment opportunities.

Ibrahim shared, "I wouldn't be where I am today without the guidance and support of friends and mentors, teachers, professors, and others who have helped me along the way. They gave me direction when things felt uncertain and reminded me that I wasn't alone on this journey."

"In today's climate, our kind of hands-on, community-based services...are essential."

Ibrahim knows that our services are more urgent now than ever. "With shrinking government aid for immigrants and refugees, Daily Work is filling a critical gap. We connect people to meaningful jobs, help them work through barriers to success, and serve as a trusted support system. In today's climate, our kind of hands-on, community-based services aren't just helpful, they are essential."

"No matter how independent or smart we are, we all need cheerleaders in our corner, especially when we're strangers in a new land," Ibrahim says. Daily Work provides that encouragement and practical support, walking alongside people as they pursue safety, opportunity, and dignity.

Ibrahim deeply respects and admires Daily Work. "It's not about handouts; it's about empowerment. Daily Work helps people build the skills and confidence they need to take charge of their own futures, and I am proud to be part of that mission."

On the Road to Opportunity



Our Practice Driving Program Launches

For many newcomers, learning to drive is nearly impossible without local connections, financial resources, or vehicle access. Thanks to our relationship with the nonprofit Change Drivers, Daily Work recently purchased a 2008 Toyota Highlander from them for just \$4,900 – the first step in launching our new Practice Driving Program.

This program helps fill a huge gap for adults who hold permits but lack opportunities for supervised practice. With our own vehicle, staff and volunteers can provide driving practice time and accompany job seekers to their road tests.

To establish the program we're guided by Dr. Beth Borgen-Lindberg, a retired school administrator and accredited driver and safety education instructor. She's helping establish best practices, train volunteers, and assess when participants are ready for testing. As Beth notes, "Obtaining a driver's license means access to education, to career advancement, to stable housing."

The Need Is Clear

In Minnesota, over 90% of employed workers have a driver's license, yet driving lessons remain out of reach for the people who still need a license. A typical package costs nearly \$700 for only six hours of instruction, far beyond the means of families already struggling to meet basic needs.

The Practice Driving Program removes these barriers by providing a licensed driver and car for practice sessions, coaching, and road test support. Initially, lessons will be offered at no charge to current job seekers, even though the program carries real costs including insurance, maintenance, fuel, instructor oversight, and staff time to manage the program and volunteers. In 2026, hard costs are projected at \$16,500 to provide 400 hours of instruction. By comparison, at a commercial driving school that same amount would cover only 150 hours.

Donations and Volunteers Truly Drive Change

Every hour behind the wheel advances independence, stability, and belonging. You can support this new program by making a donation, or volunteering to practice with someone. Together, we will drive opportunity forward, one mile at a time!

THE Sunflower Award

Daily Work annually recognizes volunteers whose longevity and loyalty of service are central to creating a more caring, equitable, and vibrant community. This year's recipient, Christine DeMars, has been contributing her graphic design skills for more than a decade, starting with revising our logo in 2012.



Her relationship with Executive Director Julie Hoff goes back even further, to the mid-90s, when Julie was a community organizer with the Como Park District Council. They've teamed across every nonprofit Julie has led, with Christine sharing her creativity and knowledge along the way.

"Christine has given thousands of hours to Daily Work over the years with contributions probably worth five-plus figures," says Julie. "Her dedication has refined our visual identity, while keeping overhead low so more of every dollar supports job seekers."

Q: Daily Work asked Christine what inspires her about our mission?

A: My education and profession centers on communication arts, but I've had many kinds of jobs. I know ALL work has value. The focus on helping immigrants resonates. My grandparents came from overseas and didn't speak English.

Q: You and Julie have worked together for about three decades. What do you think has kept your partnership enduring over so many years?

A: Julie is a force of nature – and very persistent! (Wink;) But she's also very collaborative and willing to give and take, plus has a sense of humor. What some might not realize is that Julie writes most of the communications, which takes a LOT of creative energy. Yet she can put her author ego aside and listen to input.



Q: Looking back, is there a particular project that you especially remember?

A: The 2019 "Picnic in the Park" images included a paper plate superimposed over a sunflower. Coincidentally, the sunflower idea germinated into this award I am being honored with!

Q: What advice would you share with others who are thinking about offering their professional skills as a volunteer at DW?

A: Volunteering at Daily Work is WORK – no pun intended! Yet it's so rewarding to see you can make a difference. Now I need to start stepping back and pass the creative torch. I'd happily share my many gigabytes of archived files!

Daily Work is seeking a new volunteer designer to bring their energy and talent to our newsletters, Steps to Success event materials, website visuals, or other projects. If you can help, please contact Julie Hoff: julie@daily-work.org.



Tanesha's Journey *Continued from page 1*

"Daily Work didn't just help me survive; they helped me start over and truly live again!" exclaimed Tanesha. "Now, my daughter is in school, we have our own apartment, and I feel like I can think about the future again – to keep building a better life for us."

With incredible determination, Tanesha transformed a difficult chapter into a new beginning. She's sharing her story to help others discover Daily Work, and access the support and resources they need to increase stability and sustain hope.

2025 A Few Snapshots



A year of accomplishments – and fun! Photos from upper left to lower right:

Jan: Welcome new board members • **Feb:** Standing up for equity at Advocacy Day • **Mar:** A little job seeker brightened our day • **Apr:** Lights, camera, action! Video shoot + Steps to Success invite • **May:** Inspiring words from Steps keynote speaker • **Jun:** Summer interns bring fresh energy & ideas • **Jul:** Ready to cheer on the Twins • **Aug:** Saying farewell (but not goodbye) to Meghan • **Sep:** Strengthening our community partnerships • **Oct:** Sharing insights at an Adult Education Forum • **Every month** brings another Daily Work success story!

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Our EOY Pledge Envelope Enclosed

For 25 years, Daily Work has been forming connections and collaborative relationships.



Together, we're making real change in our community for new arrivals and other job seekers. And right now, your gift goes further. Donations made by Dec. 31 will be matched 3-to-1, tripling your impact, and opening doors to opportunity and stability for more people. From Nov. 1–20, join our “Give to the Max” campaign at GiveMN.org/organization/Daily-Work. Prefer another way? You can always give by mail or at Daily-Work.org. Thank you!

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



Link to DW website