

THE EVEN KEEL

A JOINT PUBLICATION OF MAINSTAY AT SEATTLE CENTRAL AND SAILS

From the Director: Real Jobs. Real Wages. Full Lives.

As an employment professional, I like to think about jobs...

- *Why is having a job important?*
- *Why do most people want to work?*
- *How does our work define who we are?*

Obviously, we work to earn a paycheck, so we can afford a place to live and to pay our bills. For some, having a job means you have more freedom to do what you want. Having a job gives one a sense of purpose and strengthens personal identity.

Work is how we contribute to 'the greater good' in society. A job helps us to feel part of the team. Our earnings help the economy, so we feel valued by society. We contribute to our own communities. Having a job means a chance to gain new skills, a chance to learn and grow. The work place offers us opportunities to be social, meet people from diverse backgrounds and even a have the chance to make friends.

On the other hand, did you know that over 80% of people with disabilities are unemployed or underemployed? Unacceptable! Being an un-employed person with a disability means living 'in the margins', never feeling included, being a "user" of services or believing you don't make a difference.

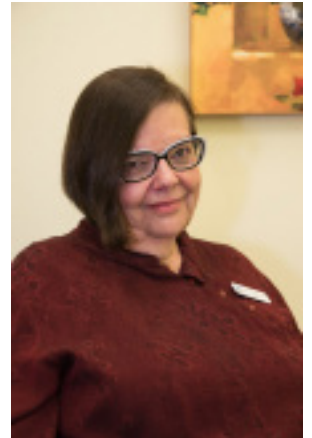
Most of us know the sense of pride one feels when offered a job. As employment professionals, we are honored to see this gift in action! We want to share this tremendous feeling with

YOU. *You are our true partner in making jobs happen for people with disabilities.* Your contributions really do help change lives in amazing ways. Helping one person get a job impacts the job seeker, their family, their employer and our local community...a ripple effect.

This year, your support made it possible for Mainstay to expand our services on the Eastside.

Your donations helped us to hire a new Employment Specialist position for the first time in over 11 years! We have been able to take 32 job seekers off of our waiting lists who are in job readiness and preparation mode. Mainstay and SAILS has served over 137 individuals with disabilities this year. Twenty-one (21) job seekers have "scored" new jobs, with 5 more people interviewing right now and 2 job offers this week!

As we come to the holiday season, we are grateful of the impact **YOU** have on the lives of people with disabilities. We are reminded of our mission that your support brings to reality... **REAL JOBS. REAL WAGES. FULL LIVES.**



Alison McCormick

Seattle Public Utility Hero Awards

In October, Marc and Matt received World Class Silent Hero Awards from the Utility Operations and Maintenance Division of Seattle Public Utilities. The Silent Hero is a person or team are unsung heroes who constantly inspires coworkers or customers by unselfish dedication to their job, work team and customers. Marc and Matt warrant this recognition because of the hard work and dedication they bring every day.



Marc (left) and Matt (right), Seattle Public Utilities heroes!

Congratulations, Marc and Matt!

We Love our Donors and Volunteers!

Thank you for all of your support for job seekers to reach their employment goals!



If you would like the opportunity to give a tax-deductible donation before December 31, please go to our donation page <https://sccd.ejoinme.org/mainstay>

SAILS - High Performing!

SAILS Data Averages:

Total Number of students served since 2014: 19
Total Number of students completing College 101: 16
Total Graduates: One (A.A.S. General Ed)
Total Employed: two in competitive employment, 1 in p/t hourly job in lab on campus
Total Number Continuing in College since 2014: 5 (average GPA 3.25)
Total Number of Students on Deans List Currently : 3
Total Number New Students Fall '17 – 7 (Six from College 101)
Total Number of Students who did not go to college or work - Two (one ill, one family move)

College 101 Parent Satisfaction Survey Results (2014, 2015 2016- Averages):

98% Satisfied or Very Satisfied with SAILS Services
98% Satisfied or Very Satisfied with progress of their student
100% parents report seeing positive changes in their student at home (i.e. volunteer to help around the house, clean up their room, etc.)

SAILS Students Satisfaction Survey (All SAILS students enrolled in spring 2016)

100% of the students indicated SAILS services were:

- *Helpful to their success in school*
- *Staff were available to them when needed*
- *Were satisfied with their college experiences so far*

Save the Date!

Mainstay will be hosting our third **Wine & Food Pairing** to benefit job seekers with disabilities. We will share wonderful wine, fabulous food, and an exciting evening for all to celebrate dream jobs for ALL.

Date: Saturday, May 19, 2018

Time: 4 to 7 p.m.

Location: The Pacific Tower - Panoramic Room - 8th floor

More information to come soon!



Staff Highlight

This year, Anja had two, “first-of its-kind” experiences for Mainstay to participate in international opportunities through Seattle Central College.

First, through a fellowship with the World Affairs Council on Disabilities, Mainstay hosted Mehdi Diouane from Casablanca, Morocco. For one month, Mehdi’s focus was to learn about vocational services for individuals with cognitive disabilities. Anja was fortunate to be his mentor and guide through this process. They visited participants on job sites, learned about funding sources such as DVR and DDA, attended job development interviews, met with Mainstay clients and participated in leadership meetings together. Mehdi hopes to replicate many of the programs and services offered in Seattle partnering with the Moroccan government. In return, the World Affairs Council will send Anja to Casablanca in January as part of this exchange to complete this fellowship program.

Separately, through the Seattle Central Global Impact educational excursions, Anja was able to travel to Ghana. Anja initial hope was to explore the existence (or non-existence) of programs for individuals with disabilities in Ghana. However, her team focused on local health care services focusing on child welfare and family planning. During the two-week trip, Anja gained insight into Ghana’s culture, customs, and lifestyles.

Anja states, “I was overwhelmed by the human aspect -- the passion and respect patients, clients, and professionals had for each other. People take their time to listen to each other, to follow-up, to deliver services with a commitment and dedication. On the other hand, simple things like basic computers or even scales to weigh newborns, rubber gloves, blood pressure monitors and other necessities were extremely limited or non-existent.”



The Even Keel is a publication of Mainstay and SAILS at Seattle Central College.

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