

FirstJobs Summer 2011 Newsletter

In This Issue

- ⋮ North Shore Career Center Interview
- ⋮ Tinti, Quinn, Gover & Frey Law Firm Interview
- ⋮ Couture Planet
- ⋮ North Shore Community Development Coalition Interview
- ⋮ North Shore Medical Center
- ⋮ About Kara

Hi, my name is Kara Ducasse. This is my first job and it is a pleasure to be part of the F1rstJobs program. I am 17 years old and I graduated from Lynn English High School; this Fall I plan on attending the University of Massachusetts Amherst as a Pre-med student. As a Newsletter Editor for the F1rst Jobs program, I am responsible for interviewing working teens in the North Shore area. It is imperative that teenagers get jobs because they add many skills into the labor force. In this Newsletter, you will find an eclectic view of the jobs and the work teenagers execute during the summer. While reading this Newsletter, I hope you are informed on the positive affects teenagers have in the workforce.



Kara Ducasse, Newsletter Editor

North Shore Career Center

Interview with Cesar Santana, Danielle Genest, Anne - Marie O' Keefe, and Bob Fraizer

On July 21, 2011 I had the chance to go to the North Shore Youth Career Center (NSYCC) in Lynn to interview the staff who have worked diligently to get jobs for youth in the F1rstJobs program. Many teens, like me found their first job through this career center. Funding from federal and state government grants, foundations, businesses, and individuals all contribute towards paying for the wages of the youth (ages 14-21) and F1rstJobs program. These jobs range from working in the office, to landscaping and working as a lifeguard. There are 31 worksites in the North Shore area that offered jobs to the youth this summer and have helped 400 teens find jobs!

On this early Thursday morning, I found

North Shore Community Development Coalition

Interview with Teens from the S.T.A.N.D. Program



Isaac Morales, Michael Sanchez,
Barbara Rivera, Jennifer Mordes, Ariel

the staff vigilantly looking over the job openings for potential workers. The best part of their job they all agreed was, "seeing the youth working." Though they love their jobs, one thing that they would like to see is increased funding for teen jobs. Danielle Genest knows this firsthand, as a former mentor for the DYS (Department of Youth Services), she knows the importance of youth finding jobs. Now, as a Youth Case Manager, she is able to help other teenagers find work, which we know is a hard task during these economical times. Nowadays, many people are looking for jobs, but are unsuccessful; if adults are looking for jobs and can't find any, imagine how much harder it is for teens. Teenagers have to develop work skills so they may be prepared for the future. With 1,200 visits from teenagers since January, the workers in the North Shore Youth Career Center have done an excellent job with equipping the youth with the skills they need to acquire a job.



Lieutenant Governor Timothy P. Murray, Donalyn Delacruz and Bill Tinti

Tinti, Quinn, Grover & Frey Law Firm
Interview with Donalyn Delacruz

"It was all by luck," Donalyn Delacruz stated as to how she obtained her job at the Tinti, Quinn, Grover & Frey Law Firm. "I was jobless and was helping my little brother find a job," she said. While she was at the North Shore Career Center in Lynn with her brother she also decided to try and get a job; and while she was there she got referred for the job at the law firm. When she got the job, she started off filing, organizing and supplying, and then, "graduated up to the front desk." Now she has additional work such as picking up the phone and writing paper work out for the lawyers.

She works along with State Representative John Keenan and has met the Lieutenant Governor, Timothy P. Murray. Meeting and working with people who work for the country is a great experience and opportunity that not many teens get a chance to undergo. "I love the job," she declared, "their flexibility is absolutely amazing, and they are very understanding." She had thought at first that people who worked in the law office were super strict and were not flexible, but she soon found out that they were very thoughtful and considerate when there was a change in her schedule.

Even though she doesn't want to pursue a career in

Villalana, Argelis Almonte, Andrison Perez-Brea and Esquerlina Nina

The Point neighborhood is a neighborhood that most people would look down upon due to its, "bad reputation," but the teens from the Point are changing that stereotype. These teenagers are a group from S.T.A.N.D. (Summer Teen Action Neighborhood Development) and they work to clean up the Point neighborhood in Salem. For six weeks they worked tremendously hard to change the neighborhood and there has been visible transformation. They do a variety of things, such as picking up trash, gardening and removing graffiti. They all strive to change the reputation of their neighborhood, and doing this work has left them feeling, "accomplished," knowing they are directly affecting the perception of their vicinity.

Their work has left more than an imprint on the physical appearance of the neighborhood; it left an impression on them and on the people living in the neighborhood. When the group first met, it was a bit awkward, but it was not too soon until they started to, "motivate each other," and helping others, "get out of their shells." Not only did they see the difference within themselves, but they also saw how their work affected their neighbors. Esquerlina Nina noted that, "people are making an effort to change." One day, while Esquerlina was going out of her house, she overheard someone speaking. One of her neighbors was telling his friend to pick up the trash that he had just dropped; the man had noticed Esquerlina and the S.T.A.N.D. group picking up trash regularly around the neighborhood and said that it was wrong to just throw trash on the ground when people are constantly picking it up.

It's true as Emily Lennoy their supervisor said, "the teens have a really great pulse on the neighborhood, they have a lot of influence towards the community. They have the ability to speak out." In order for change to occur, it has to come from within the neighborhood, not just from outside sources. These nine teenagers have made a great difference towards their community and because of their work, "their pride in the neighborhood is rising."



Cassandra, Mary Connors, Kyle Brian, Roger Conant

North Shore Medical Center

Law, Donalyn has gotten a lot from this job; as a college student she has, "gotten used to working in a professional environment." She also has become a valuable part of the law firm. "She is one of us, she fits really well with us," Laurie Lassiter said, "She filled a void we didn't even know we had; I hope to keep her forever." Donalyn absolutely loves her job, "It's a great opportunity," she said, "It opens new doors for me, so I will have more job opportunities."



Amanda Lee, Michele Kane and Courtney Butler holding their Couture Planet Handbags

Couture Planet

Interview with Amanda Lee, Courtney Butler and Michelle Kane

Couture Planet started about three years ago by Connie Carman after seeing newspapers lying around for recycling. An idea came to her mind, one about making these newspapers into handbags; this was going to be her "green mission." Two recruits for this, "green mission" are Amanda Le and Courtney Butler. These two were new to the manufacturing world, Courtney, "never saw herself making bags and doing this kind of work," but after working she found out that she loved the job. The job requires a lot of creativity and work, because all of the bags are handmade. "I've never worked this hard in my life," Courtney stated, "It may not seem like a lot, but it is hard work." It's all worth it when they see their end products, "seeing the work you've done is the best part, it brings a sense of accomplishment" they both agreed. This summer alone, they have made over 200 handbags, this was more than the company made in the past year. "These ladies were essential to the growth of the company," Michele, their supervisor said.

Throughout their whole experience, Amanda and Courtney learned how to present themselves in the workplace and their communication and multitasking skills have gotten stronger.

Working in the manufacturing company is not what most teens get to experience, but by exposing teenagers to different companies, it gives them a better sense what they want to do when they are older. So it is imperative that teens get jobs, by getting them in the workforce early they are able to discern what it is they want to do in life.

Interview with Cassandra Houde, Kyle Devin and Byran Lequizamon

For the first time, the Union Hospital in Lynn took three teens from the F1rstJobs program to work for them over the summer. They wanted some teens to experience working in a hospital environment. Cassandra, Kyle and Brian have diverse jobs; all of them work in different parts of the hospital.

As an Office Assistant at the Spalding Rehab in Salem, Cassandra is responsible for a multitude of medical records in which she keeps in order. She also writes out the discharges for the patients in the hospital; in addition, she alphabetizes and sorts out lab tests. "Having a job is very exciting," she said, "It's exciting to see that I'm actually doing the work and it amounts to something bigger than me." There are some moments in which the times are slow, and she's punching holes in papers, but she says that, "you may not like what you're doing, but you still have to step up and do it."

Kyle works in the kitchen at the Union Hospital as the Dietary Assistant and he washes tableware, helps serve the employees and patients, stocks away things and goes into the patients' rooms to help cater. At first, Kyle did not think he was going to enjoy the job, but after actually working he said that he, "really enjoyed it." Waking up early was not fun, he "wanted to sleep in some days," but he included that this was the, "realism in working." The work is not as easy as someone may think, working in the kitchen is a hectic job and, "there is always someone needing things," Kyle said, "but it is also fun interacting with people and seeing the same face over and over again."

Not many teens can say they worked in an operating room, which is exactly what Brian did at the Union Hospital. Before a surgery is about to occur, Brian preps, sanitizes, and restocks the operating room. There has to be a sterile field, before and after the surgeries. Without this work, infectious complications can occur in patients. He even gets to observe surgeries while they are being performed. "This is a great learning experience as my first job," Brian said.

It was not only a great experience for the teens, but also for the adults. "They were all very helpful," Mary, Kyle's supervisor stated, "they did everything we asked and there was no hand holding." Hopefully, this is the first of many years that the youth can get to work in a hospital setting.

About Kara

I really did not expect to be working this summer. I thought I was going to sleep in every day, read, watch TV, play on the computer and hang out with friends. Boy, was I wrong. One day my grandma forced my sister and me to go to the Career Center in Lynn to get jobs; truthfully, I was annoyed, I thought I was wasting my time. I did not want to get a job, nor did I think I was going to get one. When I went into Cesar Santana's office, he said that it was a bit late and didn't know if I was going to even get a job. In my mind, I was like, "I can't believe I lost sleep over this." Then, he said that he knew this one job, but

it was in Salem as a Newsletter Editor, he said he was going to refer me. A couple days later I got called for an interview and three days after, I found out I got the job. So far it has been great, I love going out and interviewing people. It's nice to see what other teens are doing.

I really want to say to other teens who are sitting down on the couch doing nothing to actually get out there, there are jobs available. Lucky for me, my grandma forced me to go to the Career Center, but in reality I should have taken the initiative to find a job for myself. Trust me, if I could find a job, you probably could too. Like, I'm not even kidding, I'm one of the laziest people out there. The F1rstJobs program is a great program that has a lot of opportunities, you just have to get out there and find them.



Congressman Tierney visits teen workers at the North Shore Medical Center