



January 1, 2012

Dear Friends:

Our first “year-end” report is positive! Attached please find a data summary of our first month of operations.

At the CLRC, we emphasize that we are a service open to all who seek temporary employment, and to both business contractors and homeowners who need temporary help. We are not an employment agency; we do not charge a fee for arranging temporary work agreements. Worker pay is negotiable depending on the type of job requested, the number of workers, the number of hours needed, and if the worker is responsible for providing his/her own tools for each job.

We are publicizing ourselves through local Patch online newspapers and on online registries such as Craig’s List and DC Registry. We have sent over 30 letters to local contractors in the Centreville and Chantilly areas alone, and are stepping up a New Year’s campaign to begin initial contact with such companies as Lowe’s, Home Depot, Ace Hardware, and garden centers such as Merrifield Garden Center, as well as local lumberyards. We are also looking to advertise with local homeowner’s association newsletters.

A notable success of the CLRC has been in reaching the homeowner market, and many have said they feel very uncomfortable approaching the street corner to hire workers. We have received compliments on the professionalism of the office and with how clients are treated, and satisfaction at how all of their questions were answered. We have also received positive feedback from our homeowner clients on the jobs completed, with clients who are extremely satisfied with the skillset match we are able to provide thanks to our skills and abilities section of our intake forms. However, it is also clear that there are few jobs in this winter holiday period.

Our greatest challenge continues to be attracting the men who are accustomed to standing on the street for years, awaiting their chance to be selected to work, to give the CLRC a try. Many wish to try their luck, one day on the street, another day at the CLRC. Others feel a security in a routine they know, and wish to stick to that instead of trying a new system.

Another challenge we face is getting the contractors to acquire their daily workers from the CLRC instead of the street. Many have said that the street is easier when coming off I-66 or Hwy. 29. Others are insecure of a new institution that interrupts a routine that has been rooted in years of practice. Our volunteers are aggressively working to engage those employers so that they will start to use the CLRC. Some of our more dedicated CLRC registered workers have also asked their bosses to pick them up at the CLRC instead of on the street, even though this could potentially cost the worker a job for the day, so we praise those efforts!

Our General Worker Assembly meets daily to discuss operations, successes and frustrations. One comment that runs constant is the request that we open a bit later in the morning and remain in operation until 2:00 in the afternoon instead of closing at noon. Indeed, we have had work requests come in after hours for afternoon work, which leaves us scrambling a bit to telephone workers in order to fill job requests to the satisfaction of the clients. This is a question that we might need to address in the New Year.

Spirits among the workers are admittedly a bit low, as we all would like more jobs to be available. With the New Year, however, a monthly calendar of events is forming, with a twice a month Electrical Safety and Training workshop scheduled on Saturday mornings and ESL classes daily. We are working to get some banks to come in for some financial consulting, and one individual has expressed interest in coming in once a month to do some computer literacy training. We believe that providing a center for self-improvement will be yet another incentive for those yet hesitant come to the CLRC.

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication to the Labor Resource Center.

Best wishes for a prosperous 2012,

Shāni Moser



Director, Centreville Labor Resource Center

Worker Statistics: December 2011

Males of Hispanic Origin	Males of Non-Hispanic Origin	Females of Hispanic Origin	Total workers registered
111	7	2	120

Jobs Statistics: December 2011

Total number of jobs	Repeat employers	Newly registered employers with the CLRC	Number of workers going out on jobs
25	3	32	31