

November, 2012

I had a privilege to meet Edmond Maymeryan during the 2011 TEAM program year. In the beginning he was not sure he would be able to graduate High School. As is, he was a super senior already, but he was still not sure if he was going to get his diploma that year. Edmond had never worked in his life and didn't seem very enthusiastic about the opportunity. It was difficult to understand whether he was unmotivated or afraid of having new responsibilities. I spent a little time talking to Edmond to understand what was going wrong in his life. During our conversation he mentioned that his mother was suffering from cancer, and because of that he was very stressed and was not very motivated. I told him that it was really nice of him to care for his mother's health, but I also told him that his mother would only be happy to see his son succeed in school and in the workforce. At the time, Edmond was also under probation and didn't think that he would be wanted at any worksite. I told him to value himself, and that it was not too late to start making changes in his life. Through GYA's TEAM 2011 program Edmond was placed at the Glendale Public Library. During his work experience he started building confidence within himself. His worksite supervisors had nothing but good things to say about his work performance. After successfully completing his GYA hours, Edmond became more motivated and started looking for permanent employment. He saw a security guard position opening in one of the job lead e-mailed to him by GYA. He applied for that position and is currently employed by State Wide Security Patrol. Edmond is very happy with his job and sees the world with a different perspective. He thinks that GYA had a big role in his life improvements.

November, 2012

I have learned and gained a lot of work experience being in GYA programs. GYA is a great program that provides youth with the opportunity to gain work experience, meet successful individuals and be able to work in an environment where one can use their skills to learn and grow. I started working for GYA at the age of 17. Every year, I would get excited to turn in my application and wait nervously for the phone call from GYA to be placed at a job site. I worked in numerous places through GYA where I gained a lot of work experience. I started off working at the Glendale Public Library for 6 months, where I learned how the library systems works and the different programs offered for the community. Then, I worked at EyeCandy Beauty Bar in Montrose for another six months, where I learned how to maintain good customer service skills. Afterwards, I went back to work at the Glendale Youth Alliance job site with great mentors. After working hard, I was offered a position with the City of Glendale through another program, GYEP. I loved working at the City and I met many great individuals that served as mentors to me and helped me succeed. In the City of Glendale, I started off working at the Glendale Redevelopment Agency and gained knowledge of many new tasks such as processing bi-monthly reports and setting up meetings and working with many different staff members to get tasks done. After working with the Redevelopment Agency for a few months, I transferred to the Planning Department. In Planning, I learned how to process Home Occupation Permits. I am being hired as an Hourly City employee after having worked through GYEP for 1 year and 8 months. I am very excited about this opportunity because I will learn more skills. I have worked hard and maintained good grades) at school in order to be offered this position today; I have accomplished all this while taking a full-time equivalent course work at Glendale Community College. My goal is to transfer to UCLA to obtain a Bachelor's Degree. I have learned to set goals, work towards them and achieve my goals. During my time in GYA, my communication, writing, and administrative skills have

greatly improved. GYA is a great program designed for youth like me to achieve in a work environment. I am proud to say that I got my start in GYA! By Ani Pogossian

October, 2012

Sam was a participant of the GYA's Summer Brush Program in 2012. In February of 2012, Sam was placed on probation because of a misdemeanor he committed. In the month of March, Sam applied for our Summer Programs and met all eligibility requirements allowing him to work in the GYA's Summer Brush Program. Sam had no work experience previous to coming to GYA, so this was his first job. Sam struggled very much in the beginning of the program. The Summer Brush Program is a very structured program and Sam was not used to this. He didn't like taking or following directions and this became a problem quickly. He constantly got in trouble with not only his supervisor but with all the other kids. Mid way through the program, Sam slowly began to change in a very positive way. It seemed as if all the advice and mentoring provided to him by his supervisor had worked OR that had gotten so tired of being reprimanded that he decided to do things differently. Sam would show up to work on time and no longer spoke back to his supervisors. While he was out on the field working, he began to take the initiative of leading his group on most days. He was even awarded worker of the week at one point during the summer. At the end of the Summer Brush Program we saw a new Sam. Sam chose to make some positive changes in these few months and it worked out for him. About a month after the program had been completed, Sam came to the GYA office to tell his supervisor that he had been completed his probation requirements and that he was looking into enrolling in a local community college. With some of the money he earned during the summer, Sam was also able to pay the court to expunge his records.

July, 2012

Sevak came to inquire about the GYA program in September of 2010. Unfortunately, he was not able to enroll in the GYA program because at the time he was not a High School senior. Sevak really wanted to try back the following year, but he knew that even then he was not going to be able to graduate due to his poor grades. He shared with his case manager that his mother has multiple sclerosis and as a result was unable to work. The only person working in the household was his father who as a carpenter did not have consistent work. We recognized the need for Sevak to be part of the GYA programs. We provided him with the necessary tools to assist Sevak in meeting his needs. His case manager provided Sevak with referrals to tutoring programs and connected him with a counselor at GCC's Garfield campus who could provide Sevak with information and support. Gladly, Sevak followed our advice and enrolled in the Garfield GED program. He also enrolled in the GYA TEAM 2011 program and was placed at the Glendale YMCA. Sevak performed both office work and labor related work while at the YMCA. Throughout his stay at the YMCA, Sevak learned many new skills, gained confidence and started looking for better opportunities outside of the GYA program. Due to the experience he had obtained at the YMCA and the transferable skills he had acquired, Sevak applied and was offered a job at Home Depot. Sevak is very happy with his job. Through Sevak's Home Depot job his father who is a carpenter is able to receive discounts on purchasing supplies related to his work which has helped his business a great deal. Sevak is also happy about the fact that he is now able to support his family financially. He appreciates

everything GYA has done for him and feels blessed to be part of the workforce during such a difficult economic time period.

June, 2012

Mineh emigrated from Iran with her family few years ago. When she first was enrolled in GYA in 2008, she had language barriers; hence, she was very shy and insecure. However, things changed gradually as she enrolled in GYA. Through Glendale Youth Alliance she had the opportunity to obtain valuable work experience at prominent job sites such as Horizon Family Day Care and City of Glendale/ Finance Department. In addition to her work experience, she also had a chance to participate in the empowering workshops conducted by Ark Family Center as well as take part in the Rosie Camp seminars. During this time period, everyone noticed major changes in her personality. She is a very confident, outgoing, and articulate individual now. Her worksite supervisors had nothing, but good to say about her work performance. During the Christmas season, Mineh was informed by GYA staff about the upcoming JC Penny employment opportunities. Mineh participated in the job fair and was called for an interview. She was hired as a seasonal worker, but due to her great work skills and outgoing personality, she soon became a permanent employee. Mineh appreciates all the help and support she has received from GYA.

April 2012

Layla emigrated from Iran with her family few years ago. When she first was enrolled in GYA in 2008, she had English language barrier; hence, she was very shy, unconfident and very introverted. However, things changed gradually as she enrolled in GYA. Through Glendale Youth Alliance she had the opportunity to obtain valuable work experience at prominent job sites such as Horizon Family Day Care and City of Glendale/ Finance Department. In addition to her work experience, she also had a chance to participate in the empowering workshops conducted by Ark Family Center as well as take part in the Rosie Camp seminars. During this time period, everyone noticed major changes in her personality. She transformed into a very confident, outgoing, and articulate individual. Her worksite supervisors had only positive comments to say about her work performance. During the Christmas season, Layla was informed by GYA staff about upcoming JCPenny employment opportunities. Layla participated in the job fair and was called for an interview. She got hired as a seasonal worker. Due to her great work skills and outgoing personality, she has been able to secure permanent employment with JCPenny. Layla appreciates all the help and support she received from GYA and is well on her way in becoming a contributing member of the workforce!

March 2012

Carlos is an 18 year old Glendale student who is currently enrolled in GYA's WIA In School Youth Program. He is also a fire explorer for the City of Glendale. Carlos emigrated from Iran 3 years ago with his parents and younger brother. 2 years ago, Carlos, his brother, and mother were abandoned by his father leaving his family in financial need. Last year Carlos came to GYA in search of a job and we were able to help. Since he first came to GYA, Carlos has been able to work and help his mother out financially. He plans to graduate from Hoover High School this summer and attend the fire academy so

that one day he can become a fire fighter. Carlos is very passionate about helping his mother and brother and says he wants to work as hard as he needs to so that his mother won't have to work in her future years.

February 2012

Being in the GYA program has been a tremendous help and I'm thankful that I applied. This is my first year in GYA and it has been nothing short of new and exciting experiences. Being a recent High School graduate who wanted to gain new skills and have some work experience under her belt for the future, this program really called out to me. I also really appreciated the job training courses that were provided in November and December because they added more understanding to a typical work environment. Because of it, I learned how to deal with difficult people, how to get acquainted with my co-workers, and how to work as a team before I actually dealt with those situations. I am proud to tell people that my first job was a secretarial position at a tax/accounting firm! I am currently still working, and I have learned how to be in an environment where responsibility, accountability, and organization is key. I have learned how to use programs I was familiar with but have never thoroughly interacted with before (Outlook, Excel, Access) and I learned how to operate the phone system to transfer and hold calls. When people ask me where I work, they are always surprised with my answer because they probably expect a freshman college student to work in retail, as a babysitter, etc. I feel much more professional and educated now that I have participated in this program. Although I don't believe that I can continue my position here at Yousefian CPA, I'm sure that the things I've learned will help me greatly during my future job endeavors. Thanks for being so helpful and patient with me throughout my time in the program, and hopefully I will join again when I'm in need of stable, permanent employment. Thanks again! Alissa

January 2012

Sara came with her family to the USA few years ago. As soon as they came, they started facing financial hardships, as there were not many jobs available, and the family had to live on TANF and on a little income from her dad's part time job. In order to support the family, Sara applied for a job through GYA in the summer of 2012. She was not very confident because this was going to be her first job ever and she also had some language barrier. Before the job placement Sara attended the GYA workshops and pre-employment trainings where she learned pertinent information about interview skills, work expectations, resume writing and other useful information about the overall employment process. Sara was placed at the City of Glendale's Finance department. She followed all the advice provided to her through the GYA workshops, trainings, and one-on-one case managements. She did her best to meet and exceed her supervisor's expectations. Her supervisor was extremely impressed by her hard work, dedication, and overall work performance. As a result, when she was done with her GYA hours, she was offered a position and is now working at the City's Finance department as an Hourly City Worker. This was a dream come true for Sara, as she could not imagine that with her limited skills and limited English she could find a permanent employment with the City of Glendale. Sara and her family expressed their gratitude and appreciation to GYA for giving Sara a chance for promising future.

November 2011

It was almost a year ago that I got a call from GYA for a job opportunity. I was initially placed at GYA and I am very glad that I was because the experience that I gained being around the staff was more than what anyone would expect. Eliza Dzhaneryan, Kathy Piumetti, along with the rest of the GYA staff, were instrumental in helping me succeed. The staff taught me the accurate way to use office equipment and how to properly dress and behave in an office environment. They gave me flexible hours that did not interfere with my school work and if I needed help in school they were more than happy to help. When my hours were nearly complete there was a position at CDBG that had opened up, Kathy and Eliza had recommended me. With only a few hours of time left I used everything I learned from the GYA staff to try to prove myself to the CDBG team. And I am happy to say that the experience I gained from GYA paid off. Linda Mnatsakanyan took over as my case worker and helped me transition easily from GYA to CDBG. I am now working with the CDBG team surrounded by great people that teach me something new every day. Thanks to GYA I have gained and continue to gain experience not just in work but in life. I am indebted to the GYA staff for everything they have done and continue to do.

8-01-11

Natalie is an 18 year-old young lady who recently lost her father to throat cancer. Her mother has been under a lot of stress since her father passed away. She has been missing work a lot because she is unable to get out of bed. Natalie is an only child and is currently a student at Glendale Community College. She told her case manager that she is in desperate need of support and employment. Natalie's case manager referred her and her mother to Didi Hirsch, a partnering agency, for counseling. She also made the initial contact for them by placing a call to a therapist who currently works at Didi Hirsch. Natalie was placed at the Financial Aid office on the GCC campus. Her case manager provided her with bus tokens to assist with her transportation needs. Natalie went to work with a positive attitude everyday. She worked hard organizing thousands of financial aid files and labeled them to prepare them to be sent to storage. Natalie proved herself an asset to the team at the Financial Aid Office. Once her hours were done, her manager offered her a part-time position as a student worker. Natalie was overjoyed by this offer. The money she earns will help her family pay for basic expenses, especially at such a difficult time. Both Natalie and her mother have both attended a peer counseling session at Didi Hirsch and are thankful for the referral.

7-01-11

Juan is a 17 year old young man attending Daily High School. He is currently on probation for possession of cigarettes. He does not have any work experience. He told his case manager that he wants to change and be a better person because his girlfriend is expecting their first child and he wants to be a positive role model for his baby. Juan mentioned that he likes to fix things around the house and enjoys working outdoors. He was placed with the GYA Brush Program working on the field clearing dried brush from Glendale hillsides. He came to work with a positive attitude everyday and performed at his best even when the task was difficult. This summer, Juan learned a valuable lesson he said so to his case manager.

He told his case manager that he will not be wasting his money on buying cigarettes anymore. He said that he is planning on saving the money he earned this summer until he is ready to buy a basinet for the baby. Juan has since returned to Daily to finish his credits so that he can graduate. He is keeping his grades up and is looking forward to the future.

3-24-10

Armine arrived in the United States less than a year ago from Iran. Shortly, after her arrival she came to GYA for assistance with her job search. The challenge she faced was entering employment having minimal English skills. Although she had been educated in Iran she knew it would take a few years before she really felt at ease in a foreign country. Armine was timid and challenged and did not yet have command of the English language. Armine seemed driven but lacked confidence. We had her attend a resume workshop where she worked on her resume with a professional. This workshop also gave us a chance to get some insight into what type of employment she felt most comfortable with. Armine was enrolled through the EIP Program. We walked her through a mock interview and thought she would be a good match at Farmer's Insurance in Glendale. The owner agreed that she would be a good fit for their office because he was looking for an individual who could speak Farsi as well as Armenian. Armine grew a tremendous amount through this experience. The company benefited from her conscientious work ethic and her self-confidence soared through this experience. She was ecstatic when she learned that she would be hired permanently on a part-time basis. Her employer has been very pleased with the outcome of our program and has in turn referred other businesses to GYA. The most important outcome is that Armine has attained permanent employment and she continues to be mentored by the EIP staff.

2-17-10

Juan came to Glendale Youth Alliance as a last resort. He is a young father and his goal was to secure any type of work. He applied for employment on a daily basis and was turned away because he had made some mistakes in his past but was ready to change. He was enrolled several months ago in our ARRA program. GYA had him go through a resume workshop which gave us a chance to know what type of employment he was hoping to secure. We placed him outdoors through our GYEP program and he was elated to be given a chance to work. His attendance was consistent and he was an amazing team player. His motivation is his child gave him purpose and we took note of his eagerness to work and always be a team player. Juan had made some poor choices in his past and he wanted to make certain it did not affect his child's future. We mentored him on a daily basis and provided him with the opportunity to be hired permanently as a youth worker. Juan and his family were provided much needed food and gifts for the holidays and his appreciation was immense. At the moment he is being hired as an hourly youth worker and he feels that we are playing an integral role in changing his life. Advocating for this youth was straightforward because he was forthright and he just wanted to be given a chance. He is excited to be a permanent part of Glendale Youth Alliance and we will continue to be of support to him and his family.

11-24-09

The Employment Incentive Program (EIP) of Glendale Youth Alliance is reaching out to the local youth (ages 18-21) who are interested in finding employment. The recruiters actively work with the local high schools and colleges to distribute the information about the opportunity to work and gain valuable experience for their future careers. The EIP team has placed 35 youth workers in local businesses in the past two months. Most of these participants are scheduled to be hired on permanent basis after the completion of training hours. Currently 27 participants are waiting to be placed by December 2008. The team is also conducting outreach to the local business community. Over 3000 mailers were sent to local employers advising them about the incentives offered by GYA. The incentives include paying the employee's wages and covering worker's compensation for the initial 180 hours. The Employment Incentive Program is positively benefiting the community by serving the youth and offering incredible savings to our local businesses!!

10-21-09

Danny is a 17 year old young man who participated in our ARRA Summer 2009 Program. Danny comes from a broken home, his dad was never in the picture and his mom just left him one day and never returned. Danny was faced with having no parents, nowhere to live and no money. However, that is when his neighbor stepped in and took him into her home and gave him shelter. Furthermore, Danny has an IEP, so while having to deal with his family and housing turmoil, he also had to continue with his schoolwork as if his life wasn't turning upside down. GYA helped Danny get placed at his first ever job in the retail industry. According to his worksite supervisor, Danny was a very motivated and hardworking employee who always had a positive attitude, was responsible, great with customers and had excellent work skills. All in all, Danny benefited tremendously from being one of the GYA youth workers because he not only gained valuable on the job training but was also able to help the angel that took him in with some of the household expenses. Danny was also able to save some money so when he turns 18 he can live by himself.

9-26-09

Nancy is a 23 year old single mom living in a single parent family. Nancy had her son when she was 18 years old. Having to raise her child alone at such a young age, Nancy has undergone many struggles and difficulties. It was very hard for her to continue her education, find a job, and take care of her son. Fortunately, Nancy enrolled in the GYA Summer Employment Training Program through which she was placed to work at Planned Parenthood. Nancy's mother supported Nancy by baby sitting her son while she was out. Nancy was also provided with a very flexible work schedule at Planned Parenthood, which helped her continue her post-secondary education. For all the time Nancy was at Planned Parenthood, she demonstrated the best work skills and work attitude. Nancy's worksite supervisor and staff members expressed their gratitude to Glendale Youth Alliance for having Nancy at their worksite. Nancy is now permanently employed by Planned Parenthood to work as a general clerk at their Pasadena location.

From the very first day of her work at Planned Parenthood, it had been Nancy's desire to be permanently hired by Planned Parenthood, and when she heard the good news, she called to GYA right away and said that she would've never imagined that enrolling in GYA would be such a life changing event for her.

8-10-09

Daniel came to us from GYA's Employee Incentive Program (EIP). A very shy young man whose dream it is to become a corporate lawyer once he finishes his studies. When asked what he wanted to gain out of the Summer Employment Training Program, he said any experience would be great. Since I knew about his career goals, I contacted one of our worksite supervisor's at the Regus offices in Glendale. Regus manages two different locations in Glendale, the office on Brand Boulevard caters to various law firms needing to rent office space. Daniel was placed at the Regus offices three weeks ago. He has been assisting with various clerical tasks including filing, sorting mail, delivering mail, assisting clients and answering the phones. When I visited Daneil at the worksite last week, I was told by his supervisor that he is doing a stellar job. He is responsible, hard working and a true professional. Even though, Daniel's stay at the Regus offices was supposed to be on a temporary basis, due to his performance they are willing to offer him a part-time position upon completion of his summer training hours. We are very proud of Daniel and take joy in watching him grow as a professional in his preferred field.

7-24-09

Katlyn was elated to be one of the people selected for GYA's Summer Youth Employment Training Program. She is 20 years old and has been finding it very challenging to secure employment. When she came to us several months ago she was working at a local pizza place and barely making it. She approached us recently to make us aware of the fact that she is in dire need. The sole proprietor she works for is mistreating her and she has not been given a work schedule in a while. Katlynn lives with a roommate and has no parental support at all. GYA staff decided that offering supportive services in this young woman's case is crucial. She has faced a great deal of adversity in her life. We have given her a reference for free counseling to work through her abusive past. The news elated her because she needs professional counseling but has been on a waiting list to receive services for months. In addition, we offered her enrollment in a self-awareness course through Ark Family Center. GYA also provided her with clothing donated to us from American Apparel and a gift certificate to get groceries. What excited her most was being placed at a worksite where she could gain the on-the job training necessary for long term success.

6-17-09

After losing his job Mario returned to GYA because he had lost his job in another state. He was truly low on money and in need of a job because he had a child and a girlfriend to care for. He had worked for GYA in the past and knew that he could come to us for assistance with employment. Mario started to

work with GYA at 15 and did really well in all of the jobs he had. He was always eager to learn and earn money so that he could support his brothers and sister. While most adolescents his age were out fooling around this youth acted as the head of his household and tried to do his best to bring stability in a home without a father. He took on different jobs, through the years before moving to another state, often impressing the people he worked with. Several months ago he moved back to California because he lost his job and needed income immediately because he had a 4 month old child to feed. We were elated to see him and he was eager to work to do any type of work. We hired him through our GYEP program and he was enthusiastic about starting work. He has done so well working cooperatively with others that GYA is giving him an opportunity to be a 'team leader' this summer through our summer brush program. We feel that he is ready to lead a group and it gives him more confidence for future employment. We provided additional services such as information on a program to get food for his infant. We have also assisted him with leads for employment on the weekends. We are certain that assisting him in sustaining his family is worthwhile and his future looks brighter. His conviction is to do the best that he can and assert himself in the job he is given.

6-3-09

Alloof is one word that comes to mind when I think of the first time I encountered Lucy. We were recruiting at Advance Path Academy when we were approached by this youth. . She approached our team to ask a question and all the while acting a bit indifferent. In my mind I thought to myself 'the perfect candidate for GYA.' As a result of our visit she came into the office and brought in her application. She qualified for the program and it was her wish to work in a hospital. We were apprehensive about placing her at Glendale Adventist but we were willing to give this youth the opportunity to prove herself. Lucy was placed in the medical records department and she put her all into her work. We encouraged her at the onset and told her to be herself and do her very best. Her supervisors saw the potential in this young woman and they were willing to train her. As a direct consequence of her efforts she was hired permanently at Glendale Adventist earning \$11.16 per hour and medical benefits which she has never had before. This opportunity has altered her perspective and she is more confident and it has motivated her to finish her high school diploma. Lucy was recognized for her work and her attitude is definitely more optimistic. Lucy is on her way to achieving great things.

5-21-09

On one of our visits to Hoover High School we were introduced to Sarah . We told her that our WIA in School program had a few positions open in our year round program for high school seniors. She came immediately after school with a completed application. After asking a few probing questions GYA staff discovered that Sarah had been homeless for over a year, living in a shelter with her father. Despite the adversity this youth had faced, she managed to gain admissions at UCLA for fall 2009. The In School Youth Team quickly expedited the application process. She qualified for the program and we began to provide additional services to her and her father. She and her father are now living in a small apartment. We have used our resources to get a few pieces of furniture; the staff bought new clothing for Sarah, and

provided a gift certificate so that the family could buy a toaster oven. We continue to seek out other opportunities to support Sarah as she transitions to an actual home. We placed her at a Glendale Library because she enjoys learning and tutoring children. This youth continues to strive for excellence despite the economic challenges she is still facing. We have provided Sarah with information on scholarships which will ease her mind in her first year at UCLA. We will continue to seek out resources and provide this youth with the essentials that helps lighten her load. It is our objective to be of assistance to this youth and continue to support her with additional services. This opportunity has made an impact on Sarah's life because we gave her the chance to earn money for doing a job she enjoys and she can lend a hand to her father who is still unemployed.

5-4-09

Glendale Youth Alliance participant Sam is enrolled in the Employment Incentive Program. He is a 19 year old full time Glendale Community College student. In the past few months his family has been struggling as both of his parents were laid off. His mother came in to inquire about Sam's enrollment and job perspectives. She also spoke of their financial hardships and struggle. During the course of this meeting, one of our GYA Program Specialists advised Mom about Unemployment Insurance and assisted her in completing the online claim form. Mom did not know about the benefits of the program and was previously told that she would not qualify. Her claim was accepted and she is receiving UI as of April. Furthermore, GYA referred her husband to a local entertainment company who needed assistance with stage set up. He was hired at \$18.00 per hour. Per mom this is the highest earning/wages the family has had since they immigrated to the United States. Currently this family has two sources of income - wages and weekly UI checks. They are extremely happy and thankful for the services of the Verdugo Jobs Center and the Glendale Youth Alliance.

4-23-09

Mia attended an orientation for GYA's Hospitality Training Program in October of 2008. She stayed after the orientation to speak to the Program Specialist. Mia revealed to the Specialist that she was getting out of a very abusive marriage and was currently residing with her cousin. She was desperately searching for a job to be able to support herself and contribute to her cousin's household. Mia made a great impression on our GYA staff and was placed at a local flower shop to complete her 300 training hours. Her supervisor was also very impressed with her professionalism and hard work. Upon completion of her hours, her employer offered her a part-time position which she gladly accepted. Even though she was grateful for being employed, she continued to keep her contact with the GYA staff and expressed her desire to find something more permanent. As soon as positions for GYA's GREAT program became available, Mia was encouraged to apply. Her application was soon thereafter chosen and she was scheduled to interview with one of the City's departments for an hourly position. Her interview was a success ' Mia is currently employed at one of our departments as an hourly worker receiving a salary of \$10.50 per hour. She has since finalized her divorce and is looking to rent her own place.

4-8-09

Jason was having difficulties finding a job that would work with his school schedule. He began working in September of 2008 through the TEAM Program with Glendale Youth Alliance. He was placed at the Pacific Community Center assisting staff in the reception area. Jason completed 160 hours of work experience at Pacific Community Center and was hired as a Recreation Leader 1 through the City of Glendale. Jason is currently working on his High School Diploma and will graduate in June. Jason is enrolled at Glendale Community College, he hopes to major in accounting and become a Certified Public Accountant.

3-11-09

Levon began working with the Glendale Youth Alliance in the fall of 2008. Due to his hearing disability and limited English proficiency, we had trouble placing him at a worksite. We came to a conclusion that we would place him at the Verdugo Jobs Center where one of the case managers would be able to work with him on a one on one basis. While at the VJC, he learned how to use many of the office appliances like the fax machine and copy machine. He also assisted some of the case managers with daily tasks such as answering phones, making copies, and filing. By the time Levon completed his hours with the In School WIA Fall program we could see a great improvement in his English language skills and his overall communication skills. After completing his hours in the fall, again Levon was unemployed looking for work. Levon decided he would enroll in the Out of School WIA Program in hopes of working again. After he was enrolled again the staff assisted him with his resume and interviewing skills. This was crucial for Levon since he did not have either one. In January, Levon interviewed for TJ Maxx and was later given the good news that he would be hired. Today, Levon is working 2 jobs with the help of the Glendale Youth Alliance staff. He continues to work at TJ Maxx and he is also working for Noorcon, a computer web design business, where he is in charge of their data entry.

2-26-09

Ani is a current participant in GYA's Hospitality Training Program. She came to us in December desperate to find employment because her father had just been laid off and her mother was only working part-time. Ani shared with our GYA staff that the family had enough savings to pay rent for the month of January, after that she did not know how the family was going to survive. The first thing our staff did was put Ani's family in touch with the city's LIFERAP program. We also were able to secure employment for Ani at TV Pro Gear where she continues to work hard and demonstrate her many excellent abilities. Her worksite supervisor continuously comments on her professionalism and eagerness to learn. He has said that upon completion of her 240 training hours, he will hire her on to continue assisting them in the sales department. Ani's father has since also found employment. With both Dad and Ani working things are finally starting to look up for her family. GYA is thrilled to be part of such success stories!!!!

2-11-09

Andrew started Dec. 12, 2007 as an apprentice for the Glendale Youth Alliance. He started in the GYEP program performing brush clearance. Last year he was given an opportunity to be placed in our G.R.E.A.T. program with the Public Works Department - Streets section. He is extremely happy not only for the opportunity to be hired full-time in the future, but also for the new experience. This year alone, Andrew has taken it upon himself, with the guidance of his case manager to enroll in the Electrical Linemen Program in Pacoima Community College. He has become such an independent, and self-starter employee, he has managed to save his money and pay for his own education. GYA is currently helping in finding an Electrical Linemen Apprentice Program where they will pay for the education and hands on work experience in that particular field.

1-28-09

Michael approached GYA on one of our many visits to Alan Daily. He told a GYA staff member that his mother was struggling, working seven days a week in a factory and they were barely making it. He also mentioned how his brother who helped support the family had just lost his job. Michael was desperate to do something to generate income to help support his family. We enrolled him in our ISY program and the moment he got our call to say he was approved he ran to the office to thank us. He was placed at the Glendale library and has been consistently working. He was apprehensive at first to work at the library because he felt he wasn't bright enough to tutor elementary aged children. In just a few weeks Michael began feeling a sense of responsibility and he has gained tremendous confidence. As a result he is doing better at school and plans to graduate from Alan Daily in June.

12-18-08

Vahe lives in a single parent household with his mom. Mom has recently been diagnosed with cancer and is going through radiation therapy. Vahe came to the program desperate to work. He was placed at Quiznos and successfully completed his hours. He started with an hourly rate of \$8.00 per hour. His supervisor was extremely happy with him and gave him amazing reviews on his bi-monthly timesheets. Her case manager was also extremely impressed with his positive attitude. Right before he finished his hours, his case manager came across a possible job opening at Macy's. The position was for a sales representative working for Kenneth Cole at the Macy's in Burbank. She immediately thought of Vahe. Vahe successfully completed his interview and started his new position on December 11th. He is now making \$10.00 per hour plus commission.

12-2-08

Kimberly is one of GYA's success stories. She was recruited on a visit to Alan Daily High School. During the onsite school visit, she informed us of the many obstacles and challenges which she endures daily as

a teen mother. Kimberly has a positive disposition despite her financial struggles and continues to persevere. She lives with her boyfriend's mother and does not receive support from her own parents. We reassured Kimberly and let her know that GYA would be the place to offer her support and guidance to steer her on a positive path. We assisted her in the application process and she will begin the WIA in school program in two weeks. She will be placed at the police station because in the future she would like to pursue a career in law enforcement. Kimberly has taken pride in school and her counselor was pleased to tell us she is doing very well. Balancing motherhood and school is a lot of work, but Kimberly is focused and with GYA'S continued support she is going to do great things.

11-19-08

Sam was a participant in GYA's out of school youth program and was placed at the Verdugo Jobs Center to assist clients at the Resource Room. After the completion of his training hours, Verdugo Jobs Center management decided that he was an integral part of the integration process and would be a great addition to the VJC team. Sam has been hired on a part-time basis as an hourly city worker and is currently working at the Verdugo Jobs Center. Sam is a young man who is dedicated to his work and his school. He is currently attending USC, working toward obtaining his bachelor's degree in Business.

11-5-08

David was a participant in the GYA Hospitality Training Program last year. He worked at a local bakery and time and time again proved his loyalty and commitment to his employer. He worked hard and attended any workshops that could help him achieve personal and job success. David was receiving minimum wages which made it very difficult for him to support his wife and daughter. He expressed that he would like to obtain a job where he can grow and earn enough to raise his baby in comfort. The bakery where David was employed was facing numerous challenges at the time, and was forced to terminate his employment. David continued to keep in touch with her case manager at GYA and expressed his continued desire to find a more responsible job. David's persistence paid off when GYA's GREAT program started hiring responsible participants to place within city departments. David applied and successfully completed his interview with the Integrated Waste Department within the city of Glendale. He is scheduled for his physical and will start his full-time employment shortly. David is elated and has expressed his heartfelt gratitude to GYA for making it possible for him to support his family while building a successful and long lasting career for himself.

10-7-08

The Glendale Youth Alliance (GYA) is committed to reaching out to the teens in our community by offering employment and mentorship opportunities. Over a year ago, Peter was referred to our organization by his mother. She had heard about the programs and was in desperate need to keep her son safe and off the streets. Peter was hired and began to take initiative almost immediately. Staff

supported him as he transferred to Daily High School, where he has done very well. The counselors at Daily High School think highly of Peter and are impressed with his progress. As a Youth Worker, he has shown amazing growth in so many areas. He has strong work ethics and has gained more self confidence. He makes it to work on time despite the fact that he travels by bus or on foot approximately five miles to and from work daily. He successfully completed the summer grant program in and immediately started volunteering his time to our center while going to school and seeking employment. Peter is currently a valuable member of our GYEP program. He is a dedicated young man with the utmost sense of responsibility. Peter is a productive citizen and is well on his way to a bright future!

9-25-08

Selina came to the Verdugo Jobs Center resource room on Tuesday, September 22nd desperately needing a job. She moved to Glendale from Chino over a month ago and has been staying with her aunt. With a gentle smile on her face, she stated that if she does not find a job quickly she will soon be homeless. She is able to remain with her aunt as long as she starts contributing for rent, otherwise she will have to move back in with her father. During her conversation with a VJC career coach, Selina shared that her father has emotionally been abusive to her all her life and she cannot return to live with him under the same roof ever again; she must find a job NOW that will allow her to stay with her aunt in Glendale. During the coaching session with Selina, a GYA Specialist found out that Selina is interested in working within the field of hospitality, and when she lived in Chino she had worked at a nearby Subway. That rang a bell for the Specialist who works with many hospitality based employers. She remembered an employer who had an opening at his Subway only eight minutes from Selina's current home. She excused herself and called the employer. He expressed his interest in interviewing Selina. An interview was scheduled for the same day at the Verdugo Jobs Center. Upon the successful completion of her interview, Selina was asked to start her training with Subway on Wednesday, September 24th. We cannot put into words the emotion we saw expressed by Selina that afternoon. It is success stories such as this one that make working at the VJC so very worthwhile!!!!