

Mission of Love Charities

NEWSLETTER

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Heritage Care and Mission of Love Charities Create Job Opportunities Together

As part of Mission of Love Charities' job readiness programs, the organization is teamed up with Heritage Care to help create job opportunities in healthcare. Heritage Care offers a C.N.A. (Certified Nursing Assistant/G.N.A. (Geriatric Nursing Assistant) Training Program for those who want to train for a job in a long-term care facility. Mission of Love Charities has been working with Heritage Care for two years in identifying those who want to train for a new profession and giving them an opportunity to take this free training class. The partnership with Heritage Care is a practical way to create job opportunities for those who have been displaced from work due to the COVID-19 epidemic.

This past fall, Mission of Love Charities entered eight people into the Heritage Care training program. The Instructor was a Registered Nurse named Makeda Samuels. Her class was eight weeks long and met four times per week for four hours each session. This online training program is time consuming but well worth the effort.

The C.N.A./G.N.A. training course is challenging and requires commitment. In the online portion of the course participants learn: the proper role of the nursing assistant, basic human anatomy, legal and

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



New Staff Members Join Mission of Love Charities.....Pg 3



Language Interpretation Services.....Pg 3



Senior Citizen Initiative to Fight Food Insecurity.....Pg 4



Mission of Love Charities Helps Seniors in.....Pg 5



Volunteerism....Pg 6



ethical considerations, activities for daily living for working with residents, communications skills, and interpersonal needs of residents. These are the basic skills required to be a C.N.A./ G.N.A.

The training program has a hands-on practicum too. Nurse trainees are prepared for real world scenarios by working in a long-term care facility for 40 hours alongside trained Geriatric Nursing Assistants who are licensed in their profession. In this portion of the program, the participants take care of residents while learning their skills. At the long-term care facilities the students are verifying they have the abilities to be a G.N.A. by giving bed baths, feeding residents, attending to hair and nail care, and helping some residents transition to a wheelchair, in addition to other skills.

There is a significant need for C.N.A. and G.N.A. trained individuals in the long-term care profession. According to Administrator Aaron Sydor, "Ninety percent of the graduates from the program receive a job in a long-term care facility." Graduates almost always find a place of employment upon graduation. In fact, the shortage of employees in long-term care facilities is so bad, many places fight over placement of graduates.

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After the practicum and demonstrated written proficiency

in the training is complete, nurses are given a certificate. Upon completion of the rigorous course, graduates are certified to work for four months. During this time period they must pass a State of Maryland board exam comprised of a written and skills tests in order to continue working. Upon completion of this final step, graduates are officially a C.N.A. or G.N.A. and can legally work in a long-term care facility beyond the four-month grace period.

Crescent Cities Center and Cadia Healthcare are two organizations that hire graduates of this class. Once graduated employment is often immediate. Heritage Care and Mission of Love Charities make for a great partnership in helping people train for a new profession and find work.



New Staff Members Join Mission of Love Charities

Three new staff members came on board this past fall: Ana Sorto, Richard Majuk and Michelle Person. Each has brought unique talents and abilities to the team at Mission of Love Charities (MOLC).

Ana Sorto is the Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Deborah Martinez. Her main job duties include accounts payables and receivables and payroll. Sorto keeps vendor accounts up-to-date and she also maintains information on grants to the organization. She is a Spanish speaker and easily interprets for clients who speak Spanish only. Sorto is a welcome member of the team as she keeps the records in order and also helps with greeting members and assisting them.

Richard Majuk joined the team at MOLC and made an immediate impact as Education Manager. He has an M.A. in International Affairs from The American University. Majuk has a strong background in working in education and non-profits. He used to work for USAID, so his expertise is a great foundation for his role at Mission of Love Charities. Majuk's duties include ensuring educational programs are on track, develop crucial relations with instructors and job placement.

Michelle Person is the Administrative Assistant for our Case Management team. She works to coordinate outreach and special events with senior housing and schools. Previously, Michelle served as a Clinical Technician for over seven years at Georgetown Hospital in Washington, D.C. She is a recent graduate from UDC and brings her experience and wealth of knowledge to the Mission.

Ana Sorto, Richard Majuk and Michelle Person have brought their skills and abilities to MOLC and each has made a difference in day-to-day operations running smoothly.

Language Interpretation Services

Many clients come to Mission of Love Charities (MOLC) for the essentials in life: food, housing and other needs. But what happens when a client speaking only a foreign language - with no English speaking skills at all - comes to MOLC for assistance?

Now there is a way to communicate with clients who do not speak English. It's called **LanguageLine Solutions**. Case Managers make a simple phone or video call to this service and **they are able to translate over 250 languages instantly**. This service is a huge asset to MOLC. Where language barriers might have been an impediment to receiving much needed services, now that is remedied. Easy communication occurs with live translation services available over a telephone or by video. Three way calling is available with 24/7 access to language interpretation services.

For Spanish speaking clients, there are several case managers on staff who speak fluent Spanish. It's as simple as putting new or existing clients in touch with a bilingual staff member, and Spanish is spoken and written in cell phone communications to new or existing clients.

Clients from different cultures and with various linguistic backgrounds can utilize Mission of Love Charities without the worry of having difficulty in communicating their needs.





Senior Citizen Initiative to Fight Food Insecurity

Now, more than ever before, senior citizens are accessing the services of Mission of Love Charities (MOLC). The main service seniors need is the Food Pantry. Many senior citizens are living on a fixed income and with the cost of food rising due to inflation, food insecurity is increasing dramatically with this population. Thanks to a grant from the National Council on Aging Senior SNAP Program, Mission of Love Charities is able to begin an initiative to reach seniors who are lacking food in their kitchens. The project puts seniors in touch with the five day a week Food Pantry at the Mission. At the Food Pantry, they can access food on a weekly or even daily basis to help keep adequate food supplies on hand.

Michelle Person, Administrative Assistant for MOLC, is heading up an outreach initiative to senior apartment complexes in Prince George's County and beyond. The initiative is telling senior citizens about the Food Pantry at MOLC and inviting them to utilize this service to the community.

Person is approaching seniors to let them know more about the Food Pantry by sponsoring events

at community centers in senior apartment complexes. "I ask them if we will be able to host a food security outreach event in their community center," said Person. "Most of them are very excited about the possible help we can provide," she added. At events, seniors are informed about where to go and when the Food Pantry is open.

Outreach to seniors at the end of 2022 has been successful and now three communities are hosting a food security event. Events are scheduled at the following communities: on January 17, 2023, at Cheval Court, on January 26, 2023, at Pin Oak Village, and on February 2, 2023, at Trinity Terrace.



In addition to making the food pantry available to seniors, part of the outreach initiative includes helping seniors apply for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits – if they qualify. "I tell them about the assistance MOLC provides with signing up for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program," remarked Person. A staff person at Mission of Love Charities will step seniors through paperwork and required documentation to receive SNAP. These benefits are crucial for many senior citizens to have more food security.

This additional boost to seniors' home kitchens can make all of the difference between possibly missing meals due to lack of money and eating right and having all three meals. The Food Pantry is a lifeline for many seniors struggling to pay the bills and eat properly. SNAP provides a budget for grocery store purchases, making trips to the store less financially stressful.

In these hard times where the cost of food is on the rise, food insecurity is experienced by so many people. "We look forward to working with our seniors in our community," Said Deborah Martinez, CEO of Mission of Love Charities. "This grant from the National Council on Aging was needed as it provides food for the seniors who often don't have food. This initiative provides relief and allows them to be able to purchase medications or other needs while not suffering from lack of food." By targeting the senior age group, MOLC's staff hopes to lessen and even alleviate food insecurity in the senior age group in Prince George's County.



Mission of Love Charities Helps Seniors in Prince George's County Access SNAP Benefits

SNAP, or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is a federal program that provides financial assistance to individuals and families in need of food. It is designed to help low-income individuals and families afford a nutritious diet. Despite the availability of SNAP benefits, some individuals may face barriers when trying to access these benefits.

These barriers can include a lack of knowledge about the application process, difficulty navigating the bureaucracy of the program, or language barriers. As a result, some people may need additional support and assistance to access SNAP benefits and ensure that they are able to put food on the table for themselves and their families. Organizations like Mission of Love Charities are dedicated to providing this support and helping people overcome these barriers to access SNAP benefits.

Yessica Molina, Director of Case Management, recently shared, "One of the main reasons that people don't get accepted for

SNAP is because they miss their interview for food stamps. The interview is an important part of the SNAP application process, and if a person misses it, they can get denied."

“*One of the main reasons that people don't get accepted for SNAP is because they miss their interview for food stamps.*”

The good news is that Mission of Love Charities (MOLC) recently received a grant from the National Council on Aging Senior SNAP Program, which will allow the organization to further its efforts to assist seniors in Prince George's County, Maryland, with obtaining SNAP benefits. MOLC has formed partnerships with local senior communities and has assembled a team of two members who are able to provide bilingual services, including assistance with

food pantry distribution, mental health counseling, and the SNAP application process.

With the National Council on Aging Senior SNAP Program grant, MOLC plans to submit around 60 SNAP applications per month and aims to support two senior facilities per month. There are 25 senior facilities in Prince George's County, and the first facility that MOLC will be assisting is Pin Oaks Village, which is run by Pamela A Nieto.

Thus, this National Council on Aging Senior SNAP Program grant will allow MOLC to reach even more seniors in the community and provide them with the assistance they need to access SNAP benefits. MOLC is committed to helping seniors overcome any barriers they may face when trying to access SNAP benefits and ensuring that they are able to maintain a healthy and nutritious diet.

Individuals and families who are eligible for SNAP benefits receive a monthly allotment of funds that can be used to purchase food

at participating retailers. SNAP benefits can be used to purchase a variety of foods, including breads, cereals, fruits, vegetables, meats, poultry, and dairy products. SNAP benefits cannot be used to purchase non-food items such as tobacco, alcohol, or household items.

SNAP benefits are provided through an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, which is similar to a debit card. EBT cards can be used at participating

retailers to purchase eligible food items. The amount of SNAP benefits an individual or family receives is based on their household size, income, and other factors.

SNAP is an important resource for low-income individuals and families who may struggle to afford a nutritious diet. It is designed to help people meet their basic food needs and ensure that they can maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.

So, if you or someone you know is a senior in Prince George's County and is in need of assistance with obtaining SNAP benefits, we encourage you to reach out to Mission of Love Charities. The organization is dedicated to helping seniors and other individuals and families in the community and is here to provide the support and assistance that is needed.



Volunteerism

At Mission of Love Charities, like many non-profit organizations, volunteers help the organization to thrive. At each public event, from the Backpack Giveaway to the Coat, Turkey and Toy Giveaways, volunteers show up and help give away items to the public. This helps the staff at Mission of Love Charities to handle a crowd of people with ease.

Kierra Jenkins is a volunteer with MOLC and she worked at the Coat Giveaway this past fall. "I really learned a lot about the community that MOLC serves," said Kierra. "It was a busy day and my help was really needed. It was great to see the excitement on the children's faces when they received their coats. The kids were truly happy to get a winter coat. One girl was especially excited about her new coat and it made my heart go out to her."

At the Toy Giveaway in mid December groups of volunteers came to give away toys to the community. Prince George's County Jack and Jill Inc. sent members to help with the Toy Giveaway and so did Gaylord Hotels, who also brought a load of toys. Board members Clement Troutman who owns Tropical Smoothie Cafe and Anthony Perez of LA Perez Consulting gave out toys at the Toy Giveaway, too. With over 400 people in attendance it was a busy day, and volunteers helped things run smoothly.

In addition to helping with public events, volunteers also come and work in the warehouse, helping with the day-to-day operations of Mission of Love Charities. Volunteers are asked to help distribute food and furniture to those in need and some even help with office tasks.



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To volunteer with Mission of Love Charities, just email:
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