

c o m p u t e r

**C.O.R.E.**

*Building Careers and Community*

## 2012 Annual Report

### Executive Director's Message

2012 saw program and location expansions bringing more opportunity to students. CORE currently features:

- Our 6-week "Intro to Computers for Essential Job Skills" program which we piloted with Connections for Hope and which will be a reality in 2013 in both Reston and Alexandria
- Our 6-month core program at four sites throughout Northern Virginia
- Our NOVA partnership which expanded in 2012 so CORE clients may receive up to 13 credits for their work at CORE
- Our skills building workshops which are open to all community members and offer training in skills to be competitive for jobs in banking and finance, retail and sales, the nonprofit sector and entrepreneurship

We were pleased in 2012 to increase our partnerships with the corporate community. Thanks to **Accenture** for coming in regularly to work one-on-one with CORE students. Also, thanks to both **BB&T** and **The Legacy Network** for supporting graduations in 2012.

Meanwhile, we launched our 2012-15 strategic plan, thanks to the expertise of a Taproot Foundation pro-bono service team. Our priorities for this time frame:

- Building community partnerships – for 2013, we will add a fifth 6-month site in partnership with Fairfax County at Gum Springs Community Center;
- Further improving and segmenting our program offerings – in partnership with NOVA, CORE has added both an Accounting course and a Business Communications course in 2012;

• Increased branding and marketing of our organization – for 2013, we will be working with a Taproot Foundation team to develop Key Messaging and Branding strategy;

• Increasing and enhancing our corporate partnerships – our employer focus groups and our corporate partnerships engaging employers in the classroom continue to grow.

"How do we do what we do, and get the results we do?" This is the question I'm asked several times a week, usually followed by a request for copies of our curriculum, our tracking database, or our funding requests.

All of these are indeed fabulous tools, but **CORE does what it does due to phenomenal volunteers, wonderful students and great staff.** CORE is the people involved; CORE is you. Thanks to each of you!

*Lynn O'Donnell*

### Success Story: Wijdan

Wijdan and her husband came to the United States as refugees from the war in Iraq. She began working at retail clothing chain TJ Maxx, but was never able to get full-time hours. She learned about CORE through her close-knit community of Iraqi emigres.

Wijdan was an outstanding success in her class, thanks to the communications and management skills she had developed as the scheduler for hundreds of employees at an oil refinery in Iraq. After she graduated, Wijdan attended a CORE job fair where she met the hiring manager for global security at Dulles Airport.

She interviewed the following week and was offered a passenger verification agent job. The position pays \$5 an hour more than her part-time job at TJ Maxx, is full-time and includes full benefits. Wijdan's family now has healthcare coverage, and she feels personally fulfilled in a job she enjoys.

### Computer C.O.R.E.

#### 2012 Board of Directors

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Robert A Carroll

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*Secretary*

Bill Browning

Andrea Beck

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Ashley Lawson

Jim McCaffery

Bill McGrath

Kristam McMenamin

Matthew McQueen

Bo Pham

#### Advisory Board

Deborah Bosick

Patricia Lunt

Ken Neidorf

John Nelson

Justin Wilson

Serving students at four locations:

#### Alexandria

3846 King Street

Alexandria, VA 22302

#### Seven Corners

2855 Annandale Road

Falls Church, VA 22042

#### Fairfax

9019 Little River Turnpike

Fairfax, VA 22031

#### Herndon

701 Bennett Street

Herndon, VA 20170

*CORE's Mission is to help low-income adults acquire the technological and life skills they need to pursue career aspirations.*

**Success Story: Sher**

Sher and his wife moved here from Nepal to seek the American Dream. He has a law degree and worked in the law field in Nepal for 20 years.

During his time at CORE, he discovered that he loves to



work on computers, so now his career goals include becoming

ing a computer technician or programmer. Eventually he would like to be able to practice law in the US.

Sher is very motivated to learn, as he has demonstrated by taking ESL classes, completing the six-month CORE course, and enrolling at NOVA while working full-time as a cashier. Since coming to this country, he has continually sought ways to gain knowledge and learn new skills. For the past few years, his career and life goals have

included improving his English language competency and increasing his computer skills. He believes that these are essential skills to have in order to succeed and prosper in the US.

According to his CORE instructors, Sher is a hard-working, personable student who picked up computer skills quickly. Sher believes he has a bright future in the computer or legal field, thanks to Computer C.O.R.E.

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**Highlights from 2012**

- We launched our 6-week class in partnership with Connections for Hope, Reston. For 2013, we will offer these classes at Island Walk in Reston (thanks to Giving Circle of HOPE support) and at Carpenter’s Shelter in Alexandria (thanks to United Way support).
- 182 students graduated from our program, and 101 of them received college credit at NOVA for their CORE coursework. Currently, 28% of those students have continued on at NOVA.
- In our spring survey of the 2012 alumni, 60% of spring graduate respondents and 72% of fall respondents reported that they had gotten a raise, a promotion, or a new job.
- In 2012, we secured 3,882 hours of pro bono service from corporate and university partnerships valued at \$166,573.
- CORE offered two additional NOVA classes – Accounting and Business Communications.
- The Center for Nonprofit Advancement named our board of directors as a finalist for its Board Leadership Award.



Fall 2012 graduates proudly display their certificates

**2012 Financial Summary (Unaudited figures)**

