computer C.O.R.E.

Building Careers and Community

2014 Annual Report

Executive Director's Message

2014 has been an exciting year for CORE! Over the course of the year, CORE continued to develop and grow. Here are some of our accomplishments:

- CORE completed our 9 classes at six sites throughout Northern Virginia for both the January-June session and the July-December session;

- A total of 26 students completed our two 10-week Accounting classes;

- CORE hosted a Job Fair in May, featuring 11 hirers. Nearly 60 community members attended the event;

- A team of George Mason University Honors College students presented on their year-long research exploring career/ employment pathways, and making recommendations on training curriculum, for CORE graduates;

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- CORE hosted two Financial Career Panel presentations featuring accountants, consultants and bankers representing local employers. There were a total of 50 attendees;

- AOL volunteers donated and prepared gift bags for each of our June 2014 CORE graduates;

- Accenture's Day of Service hosted 30 employees who worked with CORE jobseekers on the Martine Luther King holiday;

- CORE participated in a Taproot pro bono project, in partnership with the Project Management Institute. The volunteers reviewed and provided analysis of CORE's electronic communications strategy;

- We launched our first-ever Financial Boot Camp (in Herndon at Connections for Hope).

There were 22 attendees. It was the first time we've been able to actively connect CORE students, CORE graduates, Empowered Women International graduates, NVFS clients and Cornerstone clients all in one program;

- CORE was awarded a Taproot Foundation service grant for development of a new website;

- CORE was chosen for inclusion in the 2014-15 Catalogue for Philanthropy;

- In August 2014, CORE launched a new partnership with Guest House (nonprofit serving female ex-offenders) to teach our 6-week class onsite;

This fantastic progress and growth is a credit to CORE's phenomenal volunteers, wonderful students, and great staff. CORE is the people involved; CORE is you. Thanks to each of you!

Lynn O'Connell

Success Story: Mani

Mani came to Computer CORE unemployed. An immigrant from Ethiopia, her only education was limited high school instruction. While at CORE, Mani received a job as an assistant manager of Mark Computer and Accounting. Though receiving a job offer was a great success, she still desired to follow her dream of opening her own coffee shop one day.

Within a few short months of graduating from CORE, Mani made her dream a reality. She opened Mani's Café and Market in Washington D.C. Described

as "bright and cheerful" by patrons, Mani has already received high praise for her service and leadership demonstrated at her café. One of Mani's first customers came into the café interested in a slice of pound cake, but was alarmed to discover that she did not have enough cash. Mani insisted that she take the cake and pay the next time she came in. Twenty minutes later the customer returned with a friend after a visit to the ATM and paid for the cake. She was thrilled with Mani's service and promised to tell everyone she knew about

the café. A supporter of CORE who witnessed the exchange referred to Mani as "an incredible lady" and stated, "Sometimes a good heart and good business sense are one and the same!"

Mani is extremely thankful to Computer CORE for the life skills and confidence she has learned. Members of CORE's staff were among the first Mani invited to visit her new café. Everyone is thrilled with her success and excitement for the future.

Success Story: Maribel

Maribel came from a broken home in Bolivia. Her parents left a large family to find work in Argentina and later the United States. She was raised by her grandmother and uncle. She and her brothers would aid grandma selling items at the local market. At 16, her parents were able to bring her to the United States. She immediately got jobs at McDonalds and Roy Rogers while completing her High School Diploma. She won a small scholarship for classes at Northern Virginia Community College and spent the entirety on English classes.

Her father battled alcoholism and there were several nights Maribel and her father slept on the street. She understands the value of reliability, and freely admits her own drive to succeed is half from watching her father struggle, and half from the advice of her elderly grandmother. She said, "Grandma pushed me. 'Your life is not here in Bolivia; it is in America, and you need to succeed to help all of us.' That's what drives me today."

While working at a grocery store and IHOP in her 20's, she paid for several college classes on child care which led to her current job as an Assistant Teacher, with plans to complete a degree in Substance Abuse Counseling. Computer CORE class is part of a progression for 35-year-old Maribel. More complicated college classes await, and she hopes faster typing skills and a comfort level with Microsoft Office software applications will make those studies easier. Maribel has a 4-year-old daughter, just now starting the same school where she works. As Maribel says, "It will be easier for my daughter, and that's the way it should be."

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Highlights from 2014

This program is funded in part by:

Accenture
ACT for Alexandria
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Gap Foundation
Giving Circle of HOPE
The Legacy Network
The Maple Tree Fund
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Ten Thousand Villages
Training Resources Group, Inc.
United Way of the National Capital Area
Verizon Foundation
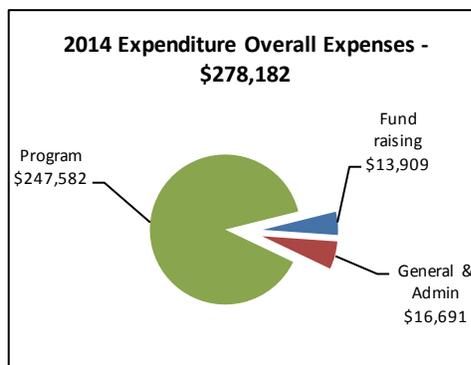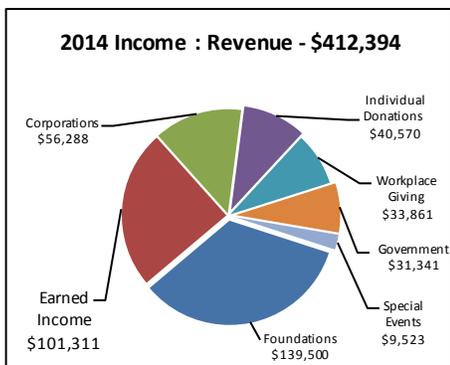Washington Forrest Foundation

"My experience working with Tseyon was excellent. She was professionally dressed, a good listener, and...she learned fast. [I would] welcome Tseyon returning if she wants/needs more practice inputting data!

—Gwen Mullen, Alexandria Tutoring Consortium, about a CORE student who volunteered in her office.

Fall 2014 Graduation

2014 Financial Summary (Audited figures)

2014 Income : Revenue - $412,394

- Individual Donations $40,570
- Workplace Giving $33,861
- Government $31,341
- Special Events $9,523
- Foundations $139,500
- Earned Income $101,311
- Corporations $56,288

2014 Expenditure Overall Expenses - $278,182

- Fund raising $13,909
- General & Admin $16,691
- Program $247,582

"While at Computer C.O.R.E., I was promoted from Assistant Manager to General Manager at my job and my new computer skills are very useful in my new position."

- Nesh, a CORE graduate