



computer core  
Building Careers and Community

## 2015 Annual Report

### Executive Director's Message

A special thank you to all our community members – students, volunteers and donors. As we relocated our offices to Bailey's Crossroads, we recognized a dream that has been long in the making. Our relocation has made us more accessible to the Bailey's Crossroads community - increasing and expanding our services in Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax County.

Here are some accomplishments of the past year:

- CORE completed our 10 classes at 6 sites throughout Northern Virginia for each of the six-month sessions in 2015. Each class met 6 hours per week;
- Twenty-one students completed our two Accounting classes;
- We unveiled our new logo;
- We have completed our first 6-week class in partnership with FCPS Key Middle School in Springfield. Eighteen

parents were enrolled in our program held at the middle school;

- CORE also offered a class for parents at John Adams Elementary School in partnership with Alexandria City Public Schools;
- Our partnership with UCM has helped CORE students get job readiness training plus one-on-one employment counseling after CORE graduation.

And, some special thank you's for 2015:

- Both E\*TRADE and Wells Fargo hosted Financial Boot Camps for CORE – one in Herndon at Connections for Hope and one at our Bailey's Crossroads location;
- Volunteers from Integrity hosted mock interviews for CORE students;
- Taproot Foundation volunteers completed their work on our

website redesign, and the new website is up and running;

- CNA hosted a fundraiser for CORE;
- AOL volunteers donated and prepared gift bags for each of our June 2015 CORE graduates.

*Lynn O'Donnell*

Here's to a great 2016!



### Success Story: Hayat

Hayat came to Computer CORE looking to advance her career in the medical field through computer and technology training. She had earned her certification to be a nursing assistant and was working part time for a local assisted living facility, but wanted a promotion and a full time schedule. Her routine consisted of caring for her four children during the week and working as a nursing assistant on the weekends.

She expressed extreme pride in her family and work, specifically

making people feel better and was passionate about providing quality care for the elderly. In her own words, "I am working as a CNA, but I cannot find an opportunity to grow because the positions require computer skills." She also recognized the applications of computer skills in daily life, "I receive a lot of emails from my children's school and teachers, and I must ask my children for help opening the files. Once I am able to do these things on my

own, it will make me happy."

By the time Hayat had completed Computer CORE's 6-month training program, she had secured a promotion and pay raise at the assisted living facility where she had been working. Due to her new found confidence from learning new skills, she was beaming with pride at graduation, "My computer skills are improving everything about my life!"

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

#### 2015 Board of Directors

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Bo Pham  
Justin Wilson

Serving students at these locations:

#### Bailey's Crossroads

5881 Leesburg Pike, STE 204  
Falls Church, VA 22041

#### Seven Corners

2855 Annandale Road  
Falls Church, VA 22042

#### Fairfax

9019 Little River Turnpike  
Fairfax, VA 22031

#### Herndon UMC

701 Bennett Street  
Herndon, VA 20170

#### Herndon C4Hope

1171 Elden Street, #200  
Herndon, VA 20170

#### Gum Springs-Alexandria

Gum Springs Community Center  
8100 Fordson Road  
Alexandria, VA 22306

#### Loudoun

21630 Ridgeway Circle, #130  
Sterling, VA 20166

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



### Success Story: Raj

Raj came to the U.S. with an undergraduate education in Economics from his home country of Pakistan, and a desire to continue on a career path working in the financial sector. Though Raj held an undergraduate degree from his home country and possessed some elementary computer knowledge he needed a boost to his technological skills to be considered for an entry level position in most U.S. financial institutions. His only means to support his wife and two daughters was working at a national fast food establishment

and barely making more than the minimum wage.

Raj had obtained his education, moved to the United States, and gained employment; however, he understood that he needed to develop his aptitude for computers to realize his career goals. Raj learned about Computer CORE through United Community Ministries, a community organization that partners with CORE, and he began his journey toward using his ambition and intelligence to acquire the computer proficiency needed to embark on his desired

career path.

Once Raj completed the Computer CORE program, he was able to use the technology skills he worked so hard to cultivate and his previous financial education to obtain a new position as a bank teller, and nearly double his salary! This was made possible through Raj's own determination combined with the skills he acquired from CORE's volunteers providing workforce development technology training, resume writing, and career coaching.

### Building Careers and Community



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5881 Leesburg Pike, STE 204  
Falls Church, VA 22041

Phone: 703-931-7346  
Fax: 703-931-7347  
E-mail:  
info@computercore.org

### Highlights from 2015

- We moved our location from the Fairlington Presbyterian Church in Alexandria to our own dedicated space in Bailey's Crossroads with two computer labs and a lecture classroom.
- 194 students participated in our 6-month classes with 85% of them graduating and 28 of them receiving NOVA credit for their coursework and 18 of them continuing to study at NOVA after graduation.
- In our survey of the 2015 alumni, 68% of 2015 our graduates reported that they had obtained a raise, a promotion or a new job.
- In 2015, we secured in-kind

material donations valued at \$184,079 and in-kind donations of time valued at \$644,282.

- CORE partnered with the Honors College Connects at George Mason University to research and identify job trends in the DC metro area and businesses with job openings for CORE graduates to seek employment.
- CORE would like to thank the naming opportunity donors for their continued support:  
Workstations  
Chris Burke, Gary & Lynnette Matz, Moat Likely to Succeed, In Honor of Cecil E. Fyffe, In Honor of Peggy B. Fyffe, Jim

Clager, Hunt Anderson, Kelvin Martinez, Chris Miller, Gretchen Streenstra, Jerry, the Volunteer, Ken Neidorf, Tom Pyle, Bob Poggi, Jan Edmiston

- Instructor Resource Station:  
Dedicated to Susan Townsend
- Job Seeker's Resource Center:  
Dedicated to Leslie Johnson
- Classroom:  
Deb Roepke & John Nelson, Founder's Classroom
- Bookkeeper's Corner:  
Dedicated to Sharon Crampton
- Server Room:  
MCG Server Room
- Handyman's Tool Bench:  
Hunt Anderson "Jack of Whatever is Needed"

**When asked what his favorite portion of the training was, Tony replied, "Everything! I particularly enjoyed the section on Excel, though. I learned a new skill and want to learn more."**

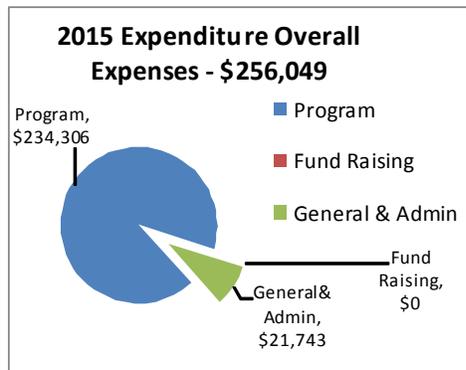
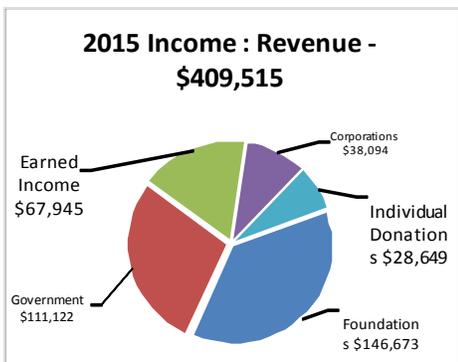
**CORE not only teaches computer skills, but also the life skills that build confidence.**

-Tony, CORE Graduate

### Fall 2015 Graduation



### 2015 Financial Summary



**"I thank Computer CORE for teaching me what I needed to know about using a computer; I use the computer skills that I learned every day. Without the training I would not have been able to keep up at my new job!"**

—Ume, CORE graduate