



# THOMASVILLE JOBLINK LINK LETTER



WELCOME TO ISSUE 13

4RD QUARTER, 2008

## Higher Numbers — Bad News

The number of visitors to the Thomasville JobLink continues to soar as a sign of our times – tough times. This quarter alone the JobLink recorded **5,746** customer visits. Many were new customers, not only to JobLink but also to unemployment. More people than ever are experiencing job loss for the first time. Our numbers for 2008 topped **15,880** customer visits. Below are some ways that we are trying to respond to these needs:

**1) Upgrade Basic Workplace Skills** - At a time when no career cluster seems immune to the current economic conditions, we are encouraging JobLink customers to consider upgrading their basic workplace skills in the areas of reading, applied math and locating information - skills that 85% of all jobs utilize. The **Career Readiness Certificate** is a portable credential that certifies these workplace skills. Customers may enroll in WIN for WorkKeys to upgrade skills and prepare for this credential. Both Thomasville JobLink and Davidson-Works in Lexington have this resource and may enroll customers. Once enrolled, customers may log on to any computer that has internet access at their convenience to work on upgrading these skills in preparation for WorkKeys (CRC) testing.

**2) Linkage to Employment** - Thomasville JobLink, in partnership with DCCC, has worked to develop a program that would be a good launching point for the many Dislocated Workers who do not know how to begin a successful job search strategy. This program scheduled to begin in February will offer a morning session 2 days per week with a focus on identifying marketable skills, enhancing job search skills and resume development, CRC preparation and an employability lab to offer assistance with identifying and navigating the many online resources with job listings. Hopefully this will help to serve the needs of the many Dislocated Workers who are first time customers to workforce development programs and services.

**3) Intensive Job Club** - Thomasville JobLink will offer the second cycle of our Intensive Job Club beginning in February - this is a small group (due to space constraints) of invited customers who will participate in an intensive job search campaign and meet one morning each week for 4 weeks. They will have the assistance and follow up of the JobLink Job Developer, Jackie Gilmore-Davis, and will be considered for WIA programs such as work experience or OJT as a next step.

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Are you looking for a job?  
 If so, our new class might be just the help you need!  
 Free\* Linkage to Employment Classes begin on the following dates:  
**February 2-February 26, 2009**  
**March 10-March 26, 2009**  
**April 7-April 23, 2009**  
 Classes meet on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30-12:30 at the WACE Building  
 For more information you may contact JobLink and to register please sign up by calling 336.224.4574  
 \*Classes are sponsored by Davidson County Community College and Thomasville JobLink.

**JobLink  
maintains a  
99%  
Positive  
Customer  
Service Rat-  
ing for 2008**

Comments from the surveys completed during the 4th quarter include:

- ***“Clone the people that work here, they are knowledgeable, friendly, and accommodating.”***
- ***“Excellent Reps.”***
- ***“Need a bigger room for classes.”***
- ***“I would not want to go anywhere else...”***
- ***“Very Courteous and Helpful”***
- ***“Friendly and professional manner in this office relieves the pressure of being unemployed.”***

### Vocational Rehabilitation’s Student Job Club

Vocational Rehabilitation team member, Richard Michaels recently completed the Davidson County School’s Occupational Course of Study Job Club. This endeavor began as an effort to have the students as informed as possible regarding public job search assistance available to them after graduation. It is held on campus at DCCC with visits to Thomasville JobLink.

OCS students must accomplish a prescribed number of actual work hours as part of the course of study in order to graduate. As part of the OCS program, students aspire to be gainfully employed throughout their senior year in order to accomplish the required number of hours. The Davidson County School’s Job Developer, Mr. Jim Jolly and School Job Coaches along with the VR Business Relations Representative assist students with finding jobs before the end of the junior year. OCS students receive information regarding the job market in their local area. They also hear presentations by local Human Resource professionals who tell them what they expect when an applicant applies for a job and how to conduct themselves in an interview. Students also receive relative information on the partner agencies, as well as a presentation on services provided by the DCCC Career Center and the JobLink Center.

In December, OSC students presented the JobLink with a certificate of appreciation for its services.

If you would like more information regarding Vocational Rehabilitation and its services, please call Business Relations Representative Richard Michaels at (336) 249-0241.

**Project Re-entry** recently graduated its 3rd session at North Piedmont Correctional Center for Women. They also started the 12th session at the Davidson Correctional Facility. Ineta says she is excited to be working with the Thomasville JobLink Center and with the referrals coming from the JobLink and other community agencies in Davidson County. Ineta expresses appreciation for all the churches and community agencies that have been so supportive over the last several months.





Our December Success Feature submitted by JobLink Team Member, Janet Money

WELCOME  
TO NEW TEAM  
MEMBER  
FRANCINE  
BOWENS

FRANCINE IS THE  
NEW INTERMIT-  
TENT ESC STAFF  
MEMBER AND IS  
IN THE JOBLINK  
ON TUESDAYS  
AND WEDNES-  
DAYS

### Success Story

Linda had been substituting for the Davidson County School System for the year of 2007. She was approached by one of the school principals at the end of the year about a new position that she would be hiring for as an Assistant Teacher for a Special Ed class.

This would require Linda to go through Effective Teacher Training and to obtain her Career Readiness Certificate.

Through one of the JobLink employees she was made aware of a program called WIN for WorkKeys that would enable you to study for the Career Readiness Certificate.

Linda visited Thomasville JobLink Career Center on June 9, 2008 and signed up for WIN for WorkKeys. She took the URL address and worked through three of the training areas that were required for a Teacher Assistant.

Linda had graduated in 1996 from High School and had been a stay at home mom since 2001. She was so grateful that she could go to JobLink and sign up for a program that would enable her to brush up on skills that she had not used in so long.

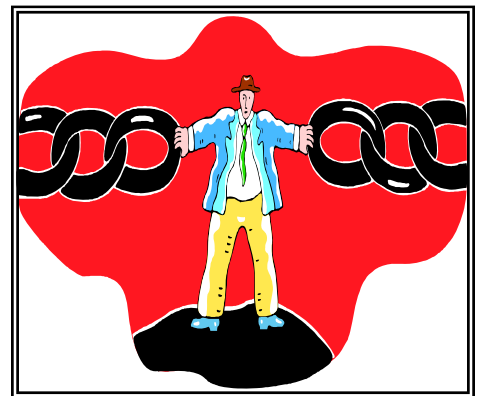
After intensive studying and working on WIN for WorkKeys, she was ready to conquer that test and felt prepared when she entered into Davidson County Community College that day.

Linda is now working for the Davidson County School System as an Assistant School Teacher. She knows in her heart that she is needed in this special class and all things happen for a reason. With resources that were offered from JobLink she was able to succeed with the requirements for this position.

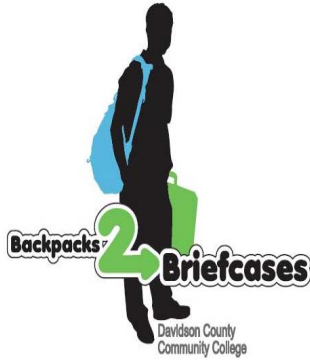
Linda says there are no words that could explain how she feels about a place like Thomasville JobLink that has such wonderful people and great customer service. They made her feel at home and were so grateful to be able to offer her the assistance she needed to succeed. She does not plan to stop here. Part of her dream is to return to college in the summer semester and start pursuing her degree in Early Education.

Her exact words were, "when you need an encouraging word, go to Thomasville JobLink. They will help make your dreams a reality."

Janet Money works on the front line in our JobLink Center and sees first hand the effects of job loss, soaring unemployment and the declining economy. She hears heartbreaking stories daily from customers losing homes, cars, having their utilities disconnected, etc. Janet says she is proud that our community has a JobLink where these folks can seek help and connections they need to services in a time of distress.



*Linking people and services*



## Thomasville By the Numbers

*The following figures have been compiled from monthly reports as taken from the daily sign-in logs. We continue to have record breaking numbers. For the 4th Quarter of 2008, Thomasville JobLink had a total of 5,746 visits, with a very high number of new customers. The total number of job placements for this quarter was 173, with 77 employer contacts and 40 services to businesses.*

## Backpacks to Briefcases

JobLink Team member JT Thill kicks off 2009 with "Backpacks to Briefcases", a new program for a federal Ready for College grant from the Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education.

"Backpacks to Briefcases" is a transitional program for GED and AHS students, ages 18-24 years, who wish to further their education or have no plans for continuing education beyond high school.

JT will be assisting students by doing personality, interest, and ethics surveys to give the students ideas about career paths. After testing and getting some college survival classes, they will take field trips to DCCC and meet the important people to know in each department (admissions, financial aid, advising, and department chairs) in order to make the students feel more comfortable at a post-secondary education institution. After enrollment, JT will continue to follow-up with the students and their instructors each semester to help identify best practice methods to succeed while in post-secondary education (both in curriculum and continuing education classes). JT will be serving students at DCCC's Main, Davie, Uptown Lexington, TEC, and Get REAL centers, with the goal of increasing the number of 18 - 24 year old basic skills students enrolling in post secondary education. JT presented this program in Washington, DC, to Department of Education and Department of Labor folks and we are hoping it will be a big success.



Your Link to Success

Linking People and Businesses to Services

DavidsonWorks



*We appreciate the support of our local WDB*