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Don't Chase the Paycheck; Chase the Rewards



Lia Santos, a hard working single mother of two girls was laid off after 10 years in the telecom industry. And before she could find another job, her Father, who lived in Mexico passed away and Lia had to send the little savings she had to the family to pay for his burial. Now finding a job became critical, as Lia lost her home and had to make arrangements for her girls to stay someplace while she sometimes slept in her car.

After some time of searching for employment, Lia happened upon the Illumination Foundation, which offered a job search training program to help challenged job seekers overcome barriers to employment. After Lia graduated from the program, she had a great resume and top notch interview skills. But one thing Lia did not have was professional clothing. That is when Lia was referred to WHW.

WHW provided Lia with two complete interview outfits including shoes and accessories all at no charge. "It was essential for me to look more professional in order to get a job," said Lia. Lia obtained interviews at several companies for good positions, but they wanted her to work weekends and be available to work overtime and she needed to be with her girls on the weekend. Illumination Foundation was so impressed with Lia's spirit, determination and professionalism that they offered her a Community Outreach position with their organization.

Now, Lia goes out into the community to share her story, always mentioning the help and support she received from WHW. "I love it!" exclaimed Lia, when asked how she likes her job of almost four months. One of things that Lia does at the Illumination Foundation is to speak with the graduates of the organization's Job Search Training

Program. "I always tell them, don't chase the paycheck, chase the rewards." Lia's reward is a job she loves, time with her girls and a story that inspires others.

About WHW. WHW is a 501(c)(3) whose mission is to provide comprehensive employment support services to empower disadvantaged men, women and teens to achieve economic self-sufficiency through employment success and who has served over 40,000 clients since 1993. WHW's Employment Success Program includes resume and interviewing skills, workshops, computer classes, image consulting, professional clothing appropriate for interviews and transportation services. Supported by United Way, WHW's services are always at no charge or obligation to clients and 260 referring non-profit partners. For more information on WHW and its Employment Success Program, go to www.whw.org.

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