

JOBPATH work.life.community. for people with developmental disabilities

A Poem For The New Year

Is This a Poem?

Is this a poem or a 'participant's poem'?
Am I a dancer or a 'participant dancing'?
Pigeon-holed by your short expectations.
Qualified.
Not an artist with a disability,
but an artist.
Not an old man, but a man.

Our individuality and wholeness lost.
Not disabled, just lonely.
We are who we are.
We be what we want to be.
Being.
Not 'disabled' being.
This is a poem.

February
2014

-The Poets of Corsi*

Harvey, Richard, Erica, Emanuel, Carol, Danny and Cathy

*Poets from Job Path and the Corsi Senior Center meet weekly to share their work at Union Settlement Association in East Harlem.

WORK.

The Benefits of Customized Employment



Katrina Roberts & Aimee Althoff



Fariso Maswoswe & Terence Woodson

Job Path staff explained the benefits of using customized employment at the Manhattan Family & Professional Resource Fair, sponsored by the Manhattan Developmental Disabilities Council. The techniques pinpoint skills that even people with the most severe disabilities can bring to the workforce and provide strategies for restructuring jobs in a way that works for both the employer and the job seeker. Terence Woodson and his employment counselor Fariso Maswoswe also discussed how his position was customized and how he went from part-time to full-time employment as a clerical aide at the NYC Department of Education.



Alex Aerni at Brooklyn Fire Proof



Burr Dodd and Erin Anderson, Brooklyn Fire Proof

Click on the thumbnail above to see a video clip of the highlights from our recent benefit which includes Terence and Fariso and Burr Dodd, President of Brooklyn Fire Proof, discussing hiring Job Path graduate Alex Aerni, who started as an intern and is now a valued member of the team.

LIFE.

Judging Books By Their Covers



Job Path's art group recently hosted a reception for their Handmade Books exhibition featuring works by ten artists who created characters and stories and designed covers for their books. These books and other works of art were on display.

Gerard Grant, who presented his work at the reception, aspires to be a shoe designer for Nike and is developing designs for a sneaker catalog. He wants to be his own boss which explains the name of his shoe line: "Bossy." Until that

happens, Gerard is hoping to get a job in retail.



This piece, by Rodney Robinson, is one of many illustrations in which Rodney's alter ego "Super Rodney" protects the defenseless. Rodney discovered his inner superhero while participating in the Figment festival this past summer. In this drawing, Super Rodney changes history for the better by saving people in peril. Rodney has an

incredibly compassionate connection to the world around him, and his art is a true reflection of the life he would like to lead.

COMMUNITY.

Man About Town



Jose Guardiola spent six weeks studying cinema management at the Maysles Documentary Center. He is now a paid intern at the Maysles Theater in his Harlem neighborhood. He ensures that the equipment runs smoothly, takes tickets at the front door, and makes popcorn. His goal is to make documentary films.

Jose also attends classes at the Adult Learning Center in the Harlem Library, computer training at the Countee Cullen

Library, and the Life Path Center on Fridays at Job Path.



A

photographer, Jose's work now hangs in our 10th floor conference room. His series reflects "looking for quiet spaces in a loud city." He pasted the photos on wood, making these new pictures look like they have been around a long time.

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