

MONTHLY GRANT REPORT

GULF COAST

New Applicant Totals: 89

Spouses	43
Dependents	7
Veterans	34
Transitioning	5

New Hires: 6

Army Vet - Tampa
Navy Vet – Tampa
AF Spouse – Tampa
Army Spouse – Riverview
AF Vet – Seffner
Army Vet – Wesley Chapel

Counties Served:

Bay
Brevard
Hillsborough
Osceola
Pasco
Pinellas
Polk

GULF COAST SEPTEMBER 2010

NORTHWEST FLORIDA

Summary:

In September, MSCCN increased the number of events offered to the Gulf Coast, Florida region. The effort increased the number of military spouses and veterans being assisted with job placement resources. In addition, there was an emphasis during September to increase job opportunities for our military spouses, veterans, and caregivers as we increased outreach efforts.

As we continued to participate in events around the region, we saw an increase in the number of candidates that have already heard about MSCCN or were referred to us by an active MSCCN candidate. This is a testament to the positive effects MSCCN is having on the communities in the Gulf Coast region of Florida.

Events and Meetings:

September 2, 2010 Virtual Training – Just One Thing: Top Tips for a Successful Job Search

This month MSCCN held a virtual training session titled Just One Thing: Top Tips for a Successful Job Search. We had six participants and the training lasted for an hour and forty-five minutes. The training was filled with great conversation - answering questions and sharing information and resources.

The virtual training began by having each of the participants introduce themselves, describing where they are in the job search and the type of position they are



looking for. There were many questions relating to resumes and interviews during the training. One participant offered a few resources that he had used, relating to resumes including general formatting, wording, and how to address salary requirements when asked to include in a job application. Others provided information and tips on how to prepare for an interview. We also discussed the power of networking and how to focus on that when doing an informational interview or attending a job fair.

The participants expressed their thanks for offering such a platform to discuss a variety of job search topics, while allowing sharing of information among others. After the virtual training session ended, the participants were each sent a training manual highlighting the various points of information that were discussed, including website links to resources that were shared by participants.

September 16, 2010 Virtual Training – How to Make the Most of a Job Fair, Don’t Just Hand Out Your Resume!

MSCCN hosted a virtual training seminar to discuss tips on attending a job fair called “How to Make the Most of a Job Fair – Don’t Just Hand Out Your Resume!” on September 16, 2010. The session lasted about an hour and a half with seven participants. The training contained information about a job fair and what makes it successful and was filled with great questions.

The virtual training began by with the participants introducing themselves, describing the industry they were interested in, and job fairs in their area. During the training most questions related to resumes and interviews. We discussed the different types of resume formats that can be used and the advantages and disadvantages of each type. Information and tips were provided on how to prepare for an interview. One participant offered advice about how to dress for an interview, emphasizing the importance of looking professional while remaining comfortable. The overall theme was to remind candidates that a job fair is a networking event and for the candidates to focus on developing conversations with the recruiters that will set them apart from other candidates. They can do that by researching the companies prior to attending a job fair, practicing their “elevator speech,” and creating a personal business card.

The feedback received from the participants was positive; they expressed thanks for offering a convenient way to discuss job search topics. Immediately upon ending the virtual training, one participant emailed, saying “[the virtual training] was interesting and very helpful. Today we have a job fair, so I will apply what I learned today.” After the virtual training session ended, the participants were each sent a training manual highlighting the various points of information that were discussed.

September 20, 2010 Tampa Bay Job and Career Fair – St. Petersburg, FL

MSCCN attended the Tampa Bay Job and Career Fair presented by The St. Petersburg Times in September. The event was open to the general public and featured free resume reviews and seminars on resume writing and interviewing. The career fair featured a variety of organizations with many different opportunities, including positions in sales, customer service, writing, and nursing.

Overall, the turnout was great with nearly 50 companies and many job seekers. MSCCN hosted a table to share information about our services with the military families at MacDill AFB and the surrounding communities. We highlighted our monthly meetings of the MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club™ and our biweekly virtual training events. The response was great and had more than 40 applicants sign up for more information. We had a number of job seekers stop by the table to pick up information for someone they knew could benefit from the services provided by MSCCN. One man picked up a flyer for his daughter who just got engaged to someone in the Marines. In addition, an Army spouse in El Paso, TX will be sent information about MSCCN's services shortly, after her mother-in-law stopped by to pick up information.

During the career fair, we met some great recruiters and school representatives. Ms. Michelle Nelson of Northwestern Mutual, stopped by for more information about MSCCN. She is a veteran and prior military spouse, and was eager to assist in MSCCN's endeavors to help those affiliated with the military find employment. We were also visited by many MSCCN candidates that attended the event. Ms. Sue Ruiz stopped by to practice her elevator speech before stopping at her top list of participating employers.

September 27, 2010 – Putting Tampa Bay Back to Work Job Fair – Tampa, FL

MSCCN attended the "Putting Tampa Bay Back to Work" Job Fair presented by The Tampa Tribune in September. The event was open to the general public and featured free resume reviews and seminars on resume writing and interviewing. The career fair featured many organizations with different opportunities, including positions in finance, customer service, publishing, and nursing.

MSCCN hosted a table to share information about our services with the military families at MacDill AFB and the surrounding communities. We highlighted our monthly meetings of the MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club™ and our biweekly virtual training events. Attendance for the job fair was low, but we were still able to connect with candidates that were affiliated with the military. During our time with them, we gave a shortened version of our virtual training geared toward making the most of a job fair, providing them with tips to network with the participating companies. We had a number of job seekers stop by the table to pick up information for someone they knew could benefit from the services provided by MSCCN.

We met some great recruiters and school representatives during the career fair. Ms. Rhonda Snead of Metro PCS, was very excited to learn about the ability to post jobs on our website with the possibilities of filling her open positions with those affiliated with the military. When talking with the representatives from the Pasco County Sheriff's Office about staffing needs, they emphasized that they are looking nurses. While at the job fair there were also several organizations in attendance, featuring their volunteer positions, which is another great way for candidates to build their resume and network for future job opportunities.

September 27, 2010 – MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club™ – Tampa, FL

MSCCN recently hosted the MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club™ September meeting at the University of Phoenix Westshore Campus, welcoming two new members to the group. The meeting opened with introductions and personal successes, learning that many have been securing interviews. We also learned that Abby Pichardo, who had attended the July and August meetings, is now working for PEMCO.

The members of the job club then began discussing the topics of career path and dream job and how those two might intersect, making the dream job a reality. Donna Buckley shared information about how she has recently decided to follow her passion for the arts and dance, and the plan she has set in place on how to achieve that goal. We also heard from Jackie Jackson as she discussed her current career path in Human Resources. The group discussed a cartoon that was shared from the book, “What Color is Your Parachute,” by Richard Bolles, which illustrated the different options that an individual might explore when focusing their career path.

We then turned the meeting over to Dorothy Dunlap, Local Veteran Employment Representative for the Tampa Bay Workforce Alliance. She led the discussion, sharing different tips and information on how to use the cover letter to grab the attention of the hiring manager. The group talked about the pros and cons of a cover letter and when it might not even be necessary when applying.

The meeting came to a close after reviewing the local events calendar that is provided to highlight the area’s different networking and training events, and sharing the resources that had been gathered at the recent job fairs.

Conclusion:

Overall, the main priority this month continued to be our military job seekers as we arranged meetings, trainings, and activities that created opportunities for our military spouses and veterans. Our MSCCN team continued to work together to expand our social media platform, corporate relationships, MilSpouse Job Club™, and virtual trainings and workshops.

It is our goal for each month for MSCCN to continue to increase outreach, job opportunities, and networking that benefit the military spouses, veterans, and caregivers of war wounded that we serve. September was a success because of the opportunities to provide outreach as a participating organization in the career fairs around the region. In addition, by MSCCN providing a virtual training platform to candidates, it gives them an opportunity to attend without stretching their resources.

Our focus for next month will continue to be on our efforts to expand job opportunities and recruiter contacts which will ultimately benefit our military community.

Feedback:

“Hi Emily, Thank you for your assistance. I have spoken with MacDill's Family Center and the classes have been helpful. I sent off both applications to the MacDill & VA hospital this week. So, hopefully I will hear from them soon. I didn't receive the attached sample resume you sent to me. Could you resend it? We will be moving to Fort Campbell and I'm excited about the moving process. Did you live on base or in the surrounding area?”

Ashley Johnson, Candidate

“Thanks, Emily

I sent it [a note] to Amy, explaining how much I enjoyed it [the job fair] and look forward to assisting you in the future. I am curious as to what other ways I might could assist you, and if you'd like assistance with another job fair?

Take care.”

Donna Buckley, Volunteer

“Thanks, Emily!

I'm looking for an administrative position. I have qualifications, and I'm not interested in sales. If you find anything like a closing coordinator (for a builder, title or mortgage company), please let me know.

My whole family is from St. Louis! Thanks for including me in your emails!”

Carol Knauer, Candidate

“It was nice meeting you yesterday at the career fair. I wanted to follow up with you and get to you some positions that we have open in our retail stores and see what information you need from me to get them out there for your people to apply.

Please let me know what you need from me and I will send you everything you need today!

Thanks”

Rhonda Snead, HR Generalist, Metro PCS

“Thanks for getting back with me. As I am a recruiter, I have a lot of positions. I will figure out my most urgent needs and send you those positions. I’m always looking for ways to get my jobs out!

My husband Jim is looking for a permanent position in the QC field, anywhere in the world. He is meeting with the Recruiter tomorrow for re-enlistment options, but until then he is anxious to get a full time position. He is 40, so full active duty is not an option for him apparently. Wherever he goes, I will need to get something too. I do Federal and Military Construction Recruiting.

I will attach both of our resumes and I will send you some jobs that we need to fill and hopefully you can get the word out about them.

Thanks Emily! This is a great resource for military families.”

Carmen Carpenter Simpson, Sr. Account Executive, Bradsby Group

“Have been kind of busy with school and Glen has been having some medical problems, but I will try and make it on the 27th. I also have an interview Monday, thanks for staying in touch. I am going to really try for Monday, if so I will see you there.”

Nancy Scarberry, Candidate

“I wanted to follow up with you – it was nice meeting with you today. I know you met quite a few people today, and I gave you my card. I am prior Military, Prior Military spouse, and also a recruiter

I look forward to networking with you to assist in your endeavors to help Military Spouse’s find employment/careers.

Thanks so much for your time!”

Michelle C. Nelson, Director of Recruiting, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network