

MONTHLY GRANT REPORT

NORTH FLORIDA

New Applicant Totals:

Spouses: 32
Veterans: 30
Transitioning: 3

New Hires: 7

Applicant Breakdown:

Escambia County: 2
Bay County: 1
Alachua County: 1
Clay County: 12
Duval County: 41
St. John's County: 3
Nassau County: 2

Total Applicant Contacts:

10,048 Candidate Contacts
2,586 Affiliate Contacts

New Volunteers: 2

NORTH FLORIDA NOVEMBER 2010

NORTHWEST FLORIDA

Summary:

In November, MSCCN launched the MilSpouse Job Club in Pensacola, Florida with the assistance of Workforce Escarosa, giving Escambia County the first job club designated solely for military spouses, veterans and caregivers of war wounded.

The focus this month was to dedicate time on working with the military spouses, veterans, and caregivers who are currently registered with the MSCCN gateway. Contact was made with all North Florida candidates in the MSCCN gateway to increase employment readiness and placement through our virtual trainings, job club events, one-on-one mentorship, and cooperative work with our military family centers and affiliate partners.

Events and Meetings:

November 10, 2010 MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club – Pensacola, Florida

The Military Spouse Corporate Career Network (MSCCN) launched the MilSpouse Job Club in Pensacola, Florida on Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at Workforce Escarosa. The event took place in a conference room upstairs in the veteran and military spouse advocate office from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

The event was sponsored by The Community Foundation in Jacksonville and powered by MSCCN. There were five military spouses in attendance at the



meeting this month. The topic of the day was "Organizing your Job Search". The purpose of this first meeting was to introduce the job club and the purpose of the group.

To start the meeting attendees were asked to introduce themselves and share with the group why they were there, where they were with their job search, and what they were hoping to accomplish by participating in this job club. After introductions we began discussing how the group can support one another, how to organize their search and focus their attention on actions that will yield the best results.

At the end of the meeting, we gave each attendee one-on-one assistance with their resume, making changes that will help them better represent themselves to the employers, and discussed open job positions each attendee may be interested in.

The November meeting of the MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club- Pensacola started slow, but with the support of our fellow NGO's will build to be a great success for military job seekers in Escambia County.

The next meeting will be held in January 2011. The topic will be polishing your professional image and branding yourself both on and offline. We will have corporate recruiters in attendance to answer questions on applying for jobs in the New Year.

November 11, 2010 – Virtual Training: Lock That Job! Interview Skills that Make a Difference

MSCCN hosted a virtual training on November 11, 2010 to help military job seekers learn interview tactics and techniques that will help get a job.

Interviews are a part of modern life. Most jobs are filled as a result of one-to-one or one-to-a-panel meetings between the employer and the best candidates. In reality, interview skills will be used many times throughout our lives and are needed in a variety of situations. Turning natural worries and fears into determination and dynamism is the key to success.

During the training we broke down the interview process from preparation through to completion, showing our job seekers steps they can take that will give them that slight advantage that may put them in the lead in consideration for an open position.

The tactics included a breakdown on the importance of your professional image, how people see you, and how you can take control of how you are seen; what is appropriate to take to an interview and what to leave behind; how to prepare for the interview; sample questions that may be asked; and how to handle lading questions that can have a negative impact on your chances of getting the job. The remainder of the training was spent highlighting

unconventional tips and techniques job seekers can use to show the interviewer that they are the best choice for the job, addressing questions from the group, and discussing techniques and suggestions that were not covered during the training that worked for one of the participants.

Thirteen participants attended this training; each of them gained a better understanding of techniques they can use to stand out from the thousands of other job seekers, and all of them felt confident that these techniques were helpful and feasible for them to use.

In Conclusion:

Contact was made with all North Florida candidates in the MSCCN gateway to increase employment readiness and placement through our virtual training platform, job club events, one-on-one mentorship, and cooperative work with our military family centers and affiliate partners.

In addition, I was honored this month to present MSCCN programs and services at the 2010 Air National Guard Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. which was attended by key leadership from each state (including Florida) and U.S. territory and their spouses. Through this presentation, as well as participation in a Base Relocation Assistance Council (BRAC) and Guard employment programs, and more the MSCCN has expanded outreach to the National Guard and Reserve Commands and other military communities in need throughout Florida and beyond.

Events scheduled for next month are limited, but include virtual training sessions and participation in the December International Military Spouse Network's employment panel. Our goals next month are to continue to increase recruiter contacts and the numbers of hires within these regions.

Feedback:

- “Great tips and techniques, some of which I had never thought of before. I look forward to implementing these during my next interview! Thank you!!!!” -Debra
- “Thank you Stacy! As always a wonderful presentation full of useful information we can all use. You always know exactly what we need to hear at just the right time! Keep up the great work!” - Shauna

NE Florida:

This month we have continued our outreach and events in Northeast Florida. We hosted a meeting of the MSCCN MilSpouse job club featuring a panel of human resources professionals who shared interviewing tips and advice. Our candidates were able to practice networking with the guest speakers and gained valuable leads for their job search. We also attended the Recruit Military Opportunity Expo at Everbank Field. A variety of local employers attended and we met with 46 military candidates and shared information about MSCCN and area employment resources. We also hosted a virtual training session featuring information on how to plan and organize your job search for the New Year. This has been a great month for MSCCN and a very successful month for our job club.

November 4, 2010 – Recruit Military Veteran Opportunity Expo Jacksonville, FL

MSCCN attended the Recruit Military Opportunity expo at Everbank Field on November 4, 2010. The event was open to anyone who has worn a uniform in support of the US military and their families. The expo featured a variety of schools, military support organizations, and military supportive employers.

MSCCN hosted a table where we shared information with job seekers about our programs and services. We were able to make some contacts with both the Navy and National Guard who were interested in promoting our services to their families.

We were able to spend some time with the attendees discussing their job search and offering them advice. For many of the participants this was their first job fair and we were able to help them develop a plan for approaching recruiters and for following up. We received feedback that our advice made a difference in their confidence and that many of the attendees were able to make some valuable contacts.

We also shared tips on updating and organizing your resume to be more effective. There was a lot of interest in our MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club that meets regularly in Jacksonville and our virtual training program. The virtual webinars are held bi-weekly and many attendees appreciated the flexibility the training sessions offer.

There was a great turnout at this event and we will be following up with some of the companies that attended about job openings that we can share with our job seekers. We will also be following up with the applicants that registered with us to help them develop their job search skills.

November 30, 2010 - Virtual Training: How to Start Your Job Search Off Right for the New Year!

MSCCN hosted a virtual training on November 30, 2010 sponsored by TriWest Healthcare Alliance. We focused on how to develop a job search plan to improve the results from your job search. This is a particularly busy and stressful time of year so it is important to set reasonable expectations and to focus on balancing your job search with other activities.

We started out talking about setting goals for your job search. It is important to know what type of work you are searching for so that you can develop a plan to get the job you want. It is also important to be able to share your goals effectively with people that you meet every day. This is a wonderful time of year to network, meet new people, and to enlist their help and support with your job search. We discussed taking advantage of informal networking opportunities to find leads for potential positions, developing organization, and creating a schedule to help balance your life!

We were also joined by representatives of TriWest Healthcare Alliance, who shared information about no-cost resources to military families in their region. They walked us through their website and links to their programs including confidential online counseling. Their website has many great resources to help combat the stress of the holidays and searching for a job.

November 17, 2010 – MSCCN MilSpouse Job Club Meeting

MSCCN hosted this month's meeting of the MilSpouse Job Club on November 17 at VenturePlex in Jacksonville. This month we featured a panel of recruiters to answer questions about how to be successful in an interview.

We started the meeting by introducing our panel and our job seekers. Our attendees have done their homework and did a wonderful job presenting concise yet informative introductions about their job search goals. Our panel included recruiters and human resource professionals from Zabatt, Inc., Florida Custom Marble, Worksource, Shands Jacksonville, and Action News.

We asked a variety of interview related questions from our panel and they shared some great tips with our job seekers including...

1. Where do you mostly find people to interview?

Employee referrals and network connections.

2. What are your interviewing pet peeves?

Applicants not doing research on their company, not being prepared, and resume typos.

3. What are some of your favorite questions?

Tell me about a time your manager made a decision you didn't agree with.

If you learned the information you gave someone would affect them negatively, what would you do?

What keeps you working besides the money?

If you could go back and change something in your career what would it be?

Our job seekers received valuable interview advice and networking connections from this meeting. We appreciate the time the panelists took to share their experience and insight on how to prepare for and be more effective in an interview.

Conclusion:

We had a great month working with our applicants and helping with their job search. We had a good turnout at our job club this month and plan to continue to bring in more guest speakers to share inside tips to help our job seekers. We also enjoyed the virtual training this month and received feedback that our participants enjoyed the flexibility the training offered. Next month we will continue our trainings, and we will be attending a Family Day Event for the Florida Air National Guard.