

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 20, 2016

Contact: Nancy Gardner
Phone: 206-461-8430, Ext. 2051
email: nancyg@nhwa.org

Neighborhood House receives \$25,000 grant for career training and adult education programs

Wells Fargo announces \$2.3 million in grants to help create jobs and stimulate small business

SEATTLE — Neighborhood House, a Seattle-based nonprofit social service agency, has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from Wells Fargo. The funds will be used to support the agency's



employment and adult education services.

Neighborhood House's Employment & Adult Education division addresses our region's low-income job seekers' needs for comprehensive, individualized employment and training services that will enable them to become self-sufficient.

Rebecca's story

Such was the case for Rebecca, a single mother of four who was unexpectedly faced with a number of career and personal challenges in late 2013, when the company she had spent eight years with closed and moved its operations overseas.

And so began a devastating chain reaction, spurred by her sudden unemployment. The dream home she had worked so hard to purchase went into foreclosure, her car was repossessed and her family became homeless. But what happened next altered the course of their lives forever.

She was told that her father had congestive heart failure and did not have long to live, and she decided to move from Florida to Seattle so she could spend whatever little time they had left together.

"Seeing my dad in such poor health made me want to improve his quality of life and take a hard look at where my career was going," she says. "I decided right then that I wanted to return to school and become a Medical Assistant (MA)."

This meant she'd be the caregiver to her kids and her father along with becoming a full time student. But Rebecca was up for the challenge, as were the instructors, faculty and student resource team at the Seattle Vocational Institute, whose professional-technical MA program was accessible, innovative and tailored to her personal needs.

Neighborhood House's employment staff helped enroll her in their Healthcare Career Pathways program, whose wraparound services, including financial assistance, job coaching, housing placement and emotional support provided her with the tools she needed to become successful.

Rebecca's career navigators played a major role in helping her stay focused and motivated, and she completed the MA program with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Not long after, Rebecca was hired full time at Carolyn Downs Family Medical Center. What advice does she have for others facing adversity?

"Never give up on your dreams. Be the best you that you can be because eventually if you continue to reach for the stars eventually you will become one."

About Wells Fargo's 2016 Economic Opportunity Grant Program

In order to strengthen communities challenged by the highest levels of unemployment, Wells Fargo awarded \$2.3 million to 59 nonprofits across California, Alaska, Washington and Oregon. Thirty-five of the funded nonprofits are from urban communities and 24 are from rural markets. The organizations offer people advancement opportunities by providing services focused on small and micro business development, workforce development or job creation.

In total, the 59 grants are expected to make the following impact in local communities (as reported by grant recipients):

- 16,000 low-to-moderate income individuals to be served
- 11,000 small business owners to receive business planning support
- 8,900 individuals to receive employment and job training
- 14,500 expected job placements

About Neighborhood House

From our earliest beginnings serving Jewish immigrants in the 1900s to our work today with people from numerous countries and cultures, Neighborhood House has helped generations of families fulfill the promise of America — an education for their children, self-sufficiency for their families and a meaningful place in a caring community. The mission of Neighborhood House is to help diverse communities of people with limited resources attain their goals for self-sufficiency, financial independence, health and community building.

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