

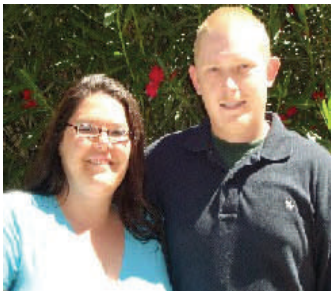
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Yuma Private Industry Council

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YOUNG COUPLE EARNS GED

Joshua and Latasha S. have had some difficult times lately. Both, 22 years old and married for 3 years, lost their jobs in the fast food industry in July 2009. According to Joshua, "When we lost our jobs, it was very difficult. We could not pay our rent so we had to split up; I stayed in Yuma and moved in with my mom but Latasha had to go to Bullhead City to live with her grandmother. You see, we have three dogs and the dogs could not stay at my mom's house, so Latasha took them to her grandmother's. Bullhead City is over three hours away; we lived this way for five months."



"Then I was talking to my mom about needing my GED because I was being rejected from interviews and my mom told me to go to the

Yuma Private Industry Council. She also suggested that Latasha go with me since she didn't graduate from high school either, so Latasha left the dogs with her grandmother and came back to Yuma. We started at YPIC together and stayed together throughout Life and Study Skills classes, then we were sent to Arizona Western College together for GED classes."

Latasha reported, "We both earned our GED's in two months. Our instructor Daniel told us to just get it done and we did. I'm the first of my grandmother's grandchildren to get a GED; I'm very proud of myself. We had lots of support from our family, friends and each other. We went through this together. "

"We could not have done this without the help of my mother", Joshua said. "She gave us a car, gas money, paid the car insurance and gave us a place to live. On the day we brought home our GED certificates, she went and got hers out and showed it to us. She is so proud of us! To celebrate, she is buying both of us new shoes today and taking us to dinner. "

When asked what their plans were, they responded at the same time, "JOBS". According to Latasha, "We both need to work. We have a five year plan; jobs, a car, and our own place. We would like some job training, but right now we need to support ourselves. Maybe once we get jobs, then we could get some training in the evenings."

The next step for Joshua and Latasha will be to work with YPIC Career Guidance Specialists to secure jobs. They will work with YPIC's resume writers to develop professional resume and participate in Job Club once a week until they find jobs.

ECONOMIC SUMMIT

The Yuma Private Industry Council was awarded an ARRA System Building Funds grant to host a Workforce Economic Development Summit, Phase II. The third and final planning meeting that included all stakeholders was held on May 5, 2010. The Yuma County Workforce and Economic Development partners presented a report of strategies to pursue when the economic recovery arrives locally. The summit partners, along with the Natelson Dale Group, economic and financial consultants, produced a draft of an

action plan. During the meeting, they obtained a consensus from their audience on what priorities should be. The report is not meant to override summit partners but provide a guide for collaboration among the partners and the community, therefore the next step is for the Workforce and Economic Development partners to meet to implement the plan. For more information on the summit, go to: <http://www.yumasun.com/news/economic-60185-yuma-industries.html>

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Numbers

ARRA funds spent to date:
88%

Youth: Received 2,233,610
Spent \$2,162,615

Adult: Received \$1,287,729
Spent \$1,151,256

Dislocated Workers:
Received \$871,599
Spent \$611,528

Rapid Response
Received \$143,277
Spent \$46,950

RAPID RESPONSE REALLY WORKS

Robert Z was laid off from El Polo Loco restaurant in January 2010; Robert was the General Manager. The Yuma Private Industry Council provided Rapid Response to El Polo Loco so Robert was signed-up for services right away. As a dislocated worker, Robert was eligible for services, although he had been a general manager and has made a substantial salary.

"I've worked in fast food since 1979 when I was 17 years old. I worked my way up; the day I turned 18 I made Assistant Manager at Del Taco and when I turned 19 they made me General Manager and I was making \$35,000 a year. That was really good money back in 1981. In 1985 I moved over to El Pollo Loco and had worked for them until I was recently laid off. I was surprised how they conducted the store closure. The corporate people just walked into the store one morning and said we were closing. We didn't even open the doors that day. The newspaper called later that day to verify we were closed and I think that's how YPIC found out about the closure. Just a few hours later, YPIC's Rapid Response team showed-up. After the orientation, I knew the staff and I needed their help."

"I've used all of YPIC's services, even though at first I didn't think I needed them. I started off with Life Skills class and wasn't sure what you were going to be able to teach me that I didn't already know. But it was a good refresher for skills I possessed and the interviewing role playing was very helpful because I had not interviewed in over 10 years; it helped me write my script. The camaraderie also motivated me. I also learned to search for jobs using the internet. I did not know you could use the internet for job search and the instructor showed us lots of sites to use."

"One of the things we were asked to consider was changing career paths, but I really didn't want to. I know food service, even though I knew fast food would no longer be an option for me. Why would someone consider me for a position when they could hire someone younger and at a lower salary? So I knew my only option was to move to a full-service restaurant. I don't have bar skills, but I know I'm teachable. I know how to manage inventory and costs, but don't have the experience so I was automatically being disqualified. I needed a company that was willing to see the skills I had and this happened when Lori (YPIC staff, professional resume writer) prepared my resume. She gave me a skills resume."

"During Job Club, all of the participants would exchange job leads they had found and after a few weeks of attending, we started to realize the kind of jobs others were looking for. One day someone handed me a job ad that said a company wanted a Food and Beverage Manager and a resume should be sent to a P.O. Box. I had no idea who I was sending my resume to but I sent it anyway. A few days later the Elks Club called. At first I thought they were calling for a donation and I was about to tell them I wasn't interested when I heard them say they had received my resume and wanted to interview me the next day."

"There were 12 candidates for the job and they were looking for a professional manager. I went to the interview in a suit and tie and was interviewed by the club trustees. They were so impressed with my mode of dress, that when I asked them what their manager wore to work, they said it would be a good idea for me to dress just like I was for the interview. I was asked back for second interview."

"After being offered the second interview, I asked if I could tour their club and they agreed. After the tour, I had lots of ideas. I also used the internet to research the company, a trick I learned in Life Skills class. So for the second interview I prepared a proposal that centered around the clubs needs."

"They were on the fence about hiring me after the first interview because of my salary requirements so I told them about how YPIC would place me there through an On-the-Job-Training (OJT) and pay one-half of my salary. "I had never dealt with beverage services and these were skills I needed to learn. I told them I would even develop my own training objectives around the bar skills and they would be responsible for providing me with the training. They asked me how soon I could start and I answered tomorrow. When I finish the OJT, I will be hired as the Food and Beverage Manager."

"This is my dream job; I can use all of my skills and learn some new ones. I need to write an operational manual, I can train the staff and I can use my creative skills. I add value to this club because I have lots to contribute. This is a huge upgrade in responsibility for me and I'm excited each morning to wake-up and go to work. "

"This is my first week of work and I'm already getting staff involved; asking for suggestions for change. Once I'm hired permanently and I'm responsible for hiring, I will use YPIC when I have available positions because I know you work with great people who need work."



UNEMPLOYED VETERAN FINDS TWO JOBS

Robert D. was an unemployed Veteran, until just a few weeks ago. In December 2009, after being a juvenile detention officer for nine years Robert knew it was time for a career change. Not realizing how hard it would be to find a new job, Robert resigned his job. After a few months of being unsuccessful in obtaining a job, he came to the Yuma Private Industry Council for job search assistance.

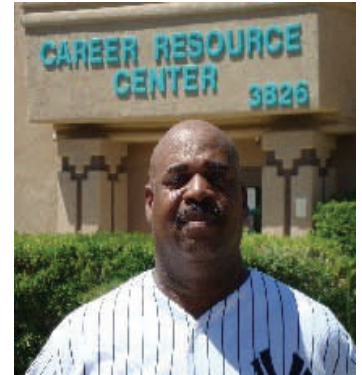
Roberts said that Norma (One Stop receptionist) made a great first impression. "She was so joyful and had such a kind and helpful nature, that I wanted to come back to YPIC for help. I used the One-Stop everyday to conduct my job search; Norma showed me websites I didn't realize existed. She told me about the many ways YPIC could help me and assisted me to begin the registration process."

"When I registered for WIA services, someone asked me if I would like to work with one of the resume writers and I said yes. I worked with Lori and she was awesome. I had been sending out resumes everywhere and maybe getting three interviews a month. Once she provided me with

a professional resume, for every resume I sent out, I was called for an interview. When I found a federal job I wanted to apply for she helped me prepare and post a federal resume; I got a call for an interview that same day. I was so appreciative for her help; she is a great listener!"

"I am currently working as a test driver for a contractor at the General Motors Desert Proving Ground facility; this is a part-time job. I'm also waiting on my background clearance so I can work for the San Luis Federal Detention Center as a transporter. Once I get the prison job, I will be able to continue my part-time job with GM because at the prison I will work three, 12 hour shifts per week."

"I had always been able to get a job; I have good skills and job history. I've realized I didn't know how to put it all together to be able to get a job by myself during these difficult times, so I'm appreciative of the help I received at YPIC."



According to Robert, YPIC gave him the skills and tools to find a job.

SINGLE MOTHER FINDS DREAM JOB

Francisca, a single mother of two came to the Yuma Private Industry Council for job placement assistance in April 2009, after being laid off from her job in September 2008. Francisca is a paralegal and had worked for a local attorney for five years; however, due to the economy the law office down-sized and Francisca lost her job.

For the last year, Francisca has applied for over 50 jobs nationwide and has had 17 interviews. Francisca researched jobs on the internet, posted her resume on employment sites and received job leads from YPIC. Francisca said she has a stack of rejection letters, most saying she was over qualified. "I don't think employers realize I just need a job. I don't care if it is at the same pay rate as my last job, but I need to be able to support myself and my child who still lives at home."

Francisca took a stop-gap job two months ago as a case manager for a mental health agency, but Francisca did not consider it a permanent job. "It was not my dream job, so I kept looking for new

opportunities. Through a friend at work, I found out about another job opportunity so I applied and I got the job! I will be working as the Volunteer Coordinator for Hospice. "

During the last 16 months that Francisca has been unemployed, she lost her house and spent all of her savings. She has had numerous side jobs, working as a paralegal, a home decorator, and a pyro-technician. Francisca said she cut back as many expense as possible, and "some months barely made it financially to the next month; but I never gave up. I took the budgeting workshop at YPIC and that really helped. I had never thought about calling my cell phone provider and insurance company and asking for reduced rates. But it worked!"

Francisca said the hardest part of being unemployed was losing her home, cutting back many of the activities and services she and her children enjoyed and constantly being rejected by employers. "However, now I have a job I'm sure I will enjoy and things will begin to improve."

The Career Resource Center, Yuma Private Industry Council's One Stop had 2580 customers in April, up from the 2380 customers in March 2010.

368 indicated they were dislocated workers

155 indicated they were Veterans

89 indicated they were Migrant workers

148 indicated they were in-school youth

344 indicated they were out-of-school youth

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Yuma Private Industry Council
opening doors between job-seekers and employers

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The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The Recovery Act is intended to preserve and create jobs, promote the nation's economic recovery and assist those most impacted by the recession. Yuma County was awarded \$4.5 million for activities authorized under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) which will be administered by the Yuma Private Industry Council (YPIC). The Yuma Private Industry Council is a private non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide job seeker and employer services in the Yuma County labor market. Incorporated in 1988, YPIC serves as the Private Sector partner in the Public/Private Workforce Development Partnership with the Yuma County Board of Supervisors. With the advent of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), the Yuma County Board of Supervisors designated YPIC as the official operator of the "One-Stop" delivery system for workforce development services in Yuma County. The Yuma County Board of Supervisors also appoints the Workforce Investment Board which is housed in the organizational framework of YPIC. The Board draws membership from the community and is made up of representatives from all areas of the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

Newsletter Created
and Written by
Nina Bone

SUCCESSES & UPCOMING EVENTS

- To read more about YPIC's use of ARRA funding, please go to:
<http://www.yumasun.com/articles/nation-58178-february-ypic.html>
- Previous Lunch & Learns recently resulted in 2 Work Experiences and 1 On-the-Job training positions for YPIC participants. In May, YPIC held two Lunch & Learns; one for the Inn Keepers Association of Yuma and one for administrators of the Cocopah Indian Tribe. Lunch & Learns are where local businesses are invited for lunch, informed of YPIC's many services and provided with a tour of YPIC's six building campus.
- On April 29, 2010, the Yuma County Board of Supervisors announced the closure of the Yuma County Area Transit (YCAT) on June 30, 2010. YCAT contacted the Yuma Private Industry Council for rapid response assistance; YPIC will be on-site the end of May to provide registration for the dislocated workers. YCAT currently has 80 employees.
- 113 private and 74 Federal resumes were

completed by the YPIC resume writers in January.

- In the next 11 months, Arizona Western College will install the single biggest solar array on a U.S. college or university campus, in collaboration with PPA Partners. The new 4.995 megawatt array will also be a testing site for manufacturers from around the world, as well as the foundation for local education and workforce development in renewable energy technology and engineering. Curriculum is in development for related education ranging from workforce development and occupational certificates to an associate's degree. Plans to partner with four-year university programs for Bachelor and Master's degrees are also underway. PPA will fund the \$30 million through two revenue sources: one from revenues from Arizona Public Service, and another from a federal tax grant, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

<http://www.yumasun.com/opinion/solar-56745-energy-awc.html>

<http://www.yumasun.com/news/one-61029-project-kind.html>



10 YPIC participants graduated from Certified Nurses Assistant (CNA) training on May 7, 2009.

22 ARRA participants
found permanent
employment in
April 2010