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## “One-Stop” Job Center a Welcome Resource

In these challenging economic times, finding a job can be stressful and time consuming. But for residents at Friendship Village in Virginia Beach, Virginia, some of that burden is eased by their community center.

Thanks to a partnership with Opportunity Inc. and the Hampton Roads Workforce Development, the One-Stop Workforce Development Center lets staff at the community center offer residents assistance through job searches, resume help, application access, job mentors, and even tips on how to dress for an interview.

“When we first started training to help residents in the job center, I thought it was a fantastic idea,” said AmeriCorps member Solomon Williams.

So great, in fact, that Williams has taken extra steps such as transporting residents to interviews and career fairs, making sure residents dress appropriately, and updating them on new job opportunities.

“We constantly get faxes and emails about new job opportunities and Solomon makes sure residents know about them,” said Resident Services Coordinator Tonya Howard.

So far, almost a dozen residents have used the Center to find jobs and three job offers have come as a result. Most who seek jobs and make use of the resources have at least gotten interviews.

“One of my residents had an interview today and looked so pretty, I almost cried,” said Howard. “To see residents work so hard to learn about and apply for a job makes it very rewarding when they finally are granted an interview.”

Two of the residents that faithfully use the center are Robert Brown and Jevon Henoud.

Brown was laid off a few months ago, but always takes advantage of the resources the center provides. “The 3 people working in our community center are great!” said Brown. “Solomon is my buddy and he helps me through every step, starting with the job search.”

Henoud agrees, “Not only have I gotten help with finding jobs, but Solomon has also taught me how to use the computer.”