Meet Tom: A Fulcrum Success

Tom is a determined and enthusiastic individual that works hard and applies himself to the task in front of him. Despite this, Tom had a difficult time finding employment where he could apply these strengths. In Tom’s period of unemployment, he registered with a temp agency, though after a while grew frustrated as the work proved to be an unpredictable income source without any opportunities for advancement.

As such, after two months of being unable to find consistent employment, Tom was struggling and so he went to apply for Food Stamps. Tom described that earlier in his youth he had been involved in the legal system and described a strong dislike of getting involved in systems, with Tom seeing Food Stamps as another system to get tangled up in. Tom wanted to get uninvolved as soon as possible. Tom values self-sufficiency and happened to notice a brochure at DSHS advertising Fulcrum and its services. Tom describes himself as a “curious kind of guy” and saw Fulcrum as an opportunity to expand his career opportunities.

Following his intake, Tom completed the job skills classes and described the classes as informative and prepared him to create a professional cover letter and resume. After the classes, Tom continued to come into Fulcrum to work with the instructor one-on-one to learn more about the online application process and to build up more confidence in using computers to search for and apply to current openings. Tom describes the job search process as similar to throwing out a fishing line and waiting for something to bite back. Tom persistently kept applying until the day arrived that Tom had an interview with a local bakery for a merchandising position. This position aligned perfectly with Tom’s career goals with his extensive background in the grocery industry.

Fulcrum is proud to report that Tom has been offered the merchandising position and will be shortly starting this exciting new opportunity. Tom graciously thanked Fulcrum staff for their support in his job search process, but we would like to thank Tom for his persistence and hard work ethic displaying that incredible things can happen with a little support and a strong drive to succeed.
Building Updates

This quarter, the north side of the Ash St. Station was painted by volunteers from Comcast wishing to partner with Fulcrum. The parking lot is still in progress with discussions happening right now between Fulcrum and the City of Spokane.

The Employment Services Department has seen some exciting developments in this past quarter. David is the new liaison for Fulcrum’s Business Roundtable, a large network of Spokane County employers that our clients use when finding work. All Fulcrum Employment Services Clients are supported in their job search process with access to our Professional Clothing Closet full of interview attire for both men and women as well as support via David’s networking with employers and post-interview feedback from BRT hiring managers ensuring that our clients succeed.

What sets employers in the Business Roundtable apart from others is the fact that they strongly believe in providing individuals second chances to succeed and do not judge individuals with criminal histories or gaps in their employment history.

The BFET Program has been with Fulcrum for just about 2 years now providing assistance with job training and searching to build up the confidence and skills necessary to thrive in the workplace. BFET helps individuals that receive Food Stamps but not TANF become work-ready through support with transportation, resume and cover letter writing, interview practice, and also by obtaining materials necessary to get to the workplace such as a Food Handler’s Card, or steel-toed boots.

The RISE Program is continuing to develop with a new director, Mellisa, and case manager Jennifer. They bring fresh ideas and connections to help get the word out about RISE and its services for clients. Further, the intake process has been streamlined and it has never been easier to join this program. RISE clients receive all of the perks that BRT and BFET clients receive in addition to hands-on support planning and identifying resources to help an individual overcome struggles that affect their ability to work such as homelessness, owing past child support, and having been unemployed for 12 months or longer. RISE case managers can also help obtain necessary documentation to get to work such as reinstating a driver’s license and transportation assistance. RISE clients then complete a set of courses call Strategies for Success that are enhanced life skills and job-readiness courses that prepare individuals for life at both home and work. At this point, RISE clients look for work also using the Business Roundtable.

Get involved: Call Jen at 509.795.8955 and take the first step toward succeeding in one of our programs.

Ash St. Station

Ash St. is flourishing with energy as its development continues. A lot of consideration has gone into putting Bay 1 into use with possible ideas surfacing such as a seasonal shop or farmer’s market. The Lands Council has completed their lab and is now growing mycelium in their efforts to help restore the Spokane River watershed by eliminating pollutants.

Ash St. aligns with Fulcrum’s vision to support our community in becoming more job-ready through its partnership with the Associated General Contractors of America and their Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program that prepares individuals to enter the construction field by obtaining their OSHA 10, First-Aid, and forklift certifications. The AGC instructors also have direct connections with construction employers to help connect graduates to employment.

Fulcrum has also hired 3 employees between Next Generation Zone and Career Path Services to learn job skills while working in the Vintage Store, a unique place to find one-of-a-kind clothing and household goods.
Offender Education classes at Geiger Correctional Facility have been going well with 79 total certificates distributed this last Session. The range of courses has expanded this Session with a new 10 class Stress Management course as well as a Relationships course that is now to be offered on a rotating basis with Parenthood.

Bill Keizer started teaching both Job Skills and Leadership in Session 34 at Geiger Correctional Facility. Bill is a fantastic new addition to the team of Instructors at Geiger with enthusiasm as well as his experience at Revive House of working with clients that have criminal histories transition to life post-release from a correctional institution.

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Fulcrum has been actively working to help spread the word that individuals with outstanding and past due Legal Financial Obligations in Spokane County also qualify to receive Fulcrum Employment Services.

In addition to the classes available at Geiger, Fulcrum continues to offer individuals released from Geiger within the last 90 days Employment Services including access to the Business Roundtable network of employers eager to hire our clients that arrive to the workplace prepared through the variety of job skills training programs offered at Ash St., Geiger, as well as Fulcrum’s offices.

Interest has continued to increase for the courses offered at Fulcrum’s Spokane offices on Augusta and Mission. Current offerings include: Anger Management, Moral Reconation Therapy, Sharing the Children, and Theft Awareness. 5 more classes have been added to the schedule for Sharing the Children class due to the high interest and the number of participants registered. This course is designed to support families resolve conflict following a divorce and provide tools to adapt to blended families as well as communicating with the other parent.

Anger Management classes are on Tuesday evenings exploring stress, the physical and mental symptoms of anger, thought patterns that increase anger, and tools to challenge it. These classes average around 5 to 8 students per class offering a small group environment. Theft Awareness is available Monday evenings to discuss thought patterns, problem-solving and perspective-taking to help encourage new ways to address needs and to prevent recidivism.

In Fulcrum’s Mission office, we offer an evening Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT). MRT assists individuals with criminal histories to examine their decision-making processes and identify new strategies to increase one’s self-awareness and ability to evaluate the impact that one’s choices can have on others. Currently, we have one individual that is nearing graduation and anticipates successfully completing the program shortly.

One thing that sets Fulcrum’s MRT classes apart from MRT offered at other places is that Fulcrum offers the lowest-cost program in the Spokane community.
Summer is consistently a busy time for the Interchange as parents and children get the opportunity to spend more time with each other in a safe and neutral environment. The Interchange provides Visitation Services for families with parenting plans and/or parental no-contact orders in place as well as for families that are receiving services through DSHS Children’s Administration.

During this quarter, the Interchange staff continues to work hard to ensure a warm and homelike environment with new furniture, toys, and videos to help get the most out of the precious time between a parent and child. Fulcrum offers sliding scale pricing for visitations not involved with DSHS and has 6 new non-DSHS families begin receiving Visitation Services. Fulcrum is proud to announce that one of the DSHS families that had attended visitations here has had their case closed with the family now reunified and no longer receiving services from DSHS.

Fulcrum’s team of qualified mediators are also able to provide their experience to assist families avoid foreclosure on a mortgage. To qualify for these services, individuals must have received a Notice of Default and have been referred to Fulcrum from the Department of Commerce or a private attorney.

Could you benefit from these Mediation Services?
Call Penny at 509.838.2799 to learn more.