

cca today!

Christian Community Action

You're helping your neighbors in need climb out of crisis!

By Androu Hatchett,
Life Skills Coordinator

Jean and her husband lost their jobs around the same time, leaving them in serious financial crisis. They walked through the doors of Christian Community Action (CCA), hungry and needing a strong dose of hope.

Thanks to friends like you, Jean and Ron received much-needed nutritious food through our food pantry for a few critical weeks. During that time, Jean approached me, ready to pursue employment as quickly as possible.

In our one-on-one job counseling, Jean shared that she loved her last job as a housekeeper in a retirement home. Thanks to your support, the Life Skills program helped her put a solid resume together.

Then, because your support has helped build a network of CCA employment partners,

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I was able to connect Jean with a temporary cleaning job. She started work the very next day!

For the last 40 years, CCA has been actively involved in Denton, Dallas, and Tarrant counties and beyond, offering the help and hope of Christ through family assistance, food pantry, spiritual care, and life skills training.

“Knowing that friends and neighbors like you are there for Jean and Ron has meant the world to them.”

So I had plenty of resources on tap when Jean's husband, Ron, came into my office the next week with the same desire to find work as quickly as possible.

After assisting him with a resume, I reached out to our employment partners again. Best of all, Jean had impressed her employer so much that they offered her husband a job on the spot.

The temporary positions provided much-needed income for Jean and Ron, helping them through the worst part of their family crisis. And CCA continued to support them with food and Life Skills program resources, with

the ultimate goal of permanent, long-term employment and family stability.

Knowing that friends and neighbors like you are there for Jean and Ron has meant the world to them. They continually tell me what it means to know that they are not alone... to have the confidence and strength to work toward their goals every day.

During the next few months, Jean and Ron's caseworker checked in often, letting them know about permanent job openings and reaching out to prospective employers on their behalf. Soon, **they were both hired at the same commercial cleaning agency... along with their son!**

I can't thank you enough. You know that we never give a simple hand out to people in need, but a hand up. When you give and pray, you help people like Jean and Ron get out of crisis for the long term.

Today—because of you and your support of CCA's Life Skills program—they are climbing out of crisis and building a real future! ■



Thank you for teaching life skills to so many

In Denton County alone, over 3,500 qualified workers are unemployed. And thousands more are under-employed, either working at jobs for which they are overqualified or in part-time situations.

Thanks to the support of caring friends like you, **CCA is able to partner with area employers and educators to offer targeted Life Skills programs and resources.**

Many of our clients already have the “hard” skills, the specific training, education, degree, or technical abilities required for certain jobs. The exception can be English proficiency, so through financial support from friends like you, we're able to offer classes in English as a Second Language and provide certificates for every graduate to prove competency.

However, **CCA primarily focuses on the training many workers never receive:** soft skills like communication, conflict management, relationship building, and problem-solving. You also help teach key job readiness skills like completing a resume, interviewing strategies, and even how to dress for success.

These skills get our clients in the door with employers... set them apart from other applicants... and help them function well in a work environment.

In 2016 alone, our staff and volunteers helped 333 men and women learn the “soft” skills they need to get and keep stable, long-term employment. With your help, we will grow and expand the Life Skills program even more in the months to come. Thank you for helping make all this possible. ■



Emily has a new job and new life thanks to you!

Emily walked into CCA one day with a big dream. She needed to find a stable administrative job in a positive work environment... a job that would give her a better life. **Emily was absolutely determined to make it happen, but she didn't know how.**

Because of friends like you, CCA is well-prepared to serve every client who is ready, willing, and able to work. You help provide that much-needed hand up!

In Emily's case, that started by helping her build a solid, stand-out resume emphasizing the administrative skills she'd carefully cultivated over the past few years. Then Emily began diligently applying to companies all over the Metroplex. We all felt her excitement when she got her first call for an interview!

Emily began working on her interview skills in one-on-one job counseling and a group workshop. First, our Life Skills Coordinator, Androu, helped her thoroughly research the company, and then they spent time doing mock interviews. Emily learned key life skills like making eye contact, active listening, and more.

Because of you, Emily is being set up for success—as are many more men and women like her. Thank you! ■



“Because of friends like you, CCA is well-prepared to serve every client who is ready, willing, and able to work.”

Meet Androu Hatchett

Androu Hatchett is the Life Skills Coordinator at CCA, coordinating the classes and resources available to every client. This Q&A gives you a bird's-eye view of this special part of CCA's ministry and shows how you're a vital part.

Q: Hi, Androu! Please tell our readers a little bit about what you do.

A: The Life Skills program has been a big part of CCA from the beginning. Our goal is to help individuals obtain self-sufficiency—not enabling anyone, not giving hand outs, but helping them develop the skills that will help them achieve stable, long-term employment.

Right now, we offer English as a Second Language, computer skills, budgeting, job readiness, and more.

And this year, we're expanding into anger management, parenting, and other family-oriented classes, too.

Q: How do clients enter the Life Skills program? What is the #1 need that you see CCA meeting in this area?

A: Clients usually start with crisis management services like utility assistance or our food pantry. Once stability is achieved, our case managers assess their situation and offer the opportunity to participate in life skills training.

I think the biggest need we're filling now is through our English as a Second Language program. Solid English skills help our clients find better jobs. They're able to pursue a GED and other skills necessary for a better-paying job and a future for their family.

Q: Why do you think teaching life skills is such a critical part of helping clients build a better future?

A: When you think about it, everything ties into opportunities for better employment. Interviewing skills, resume building, negotiating, networking, and other key abilities are a huge part of the equation for success... for a better quality of life long term.

That's why I want to thank all our friends who give and pray. I want you to know that every dollar you give is being put to use. From the food pantry to counseling to utility assistance, and now to Life Skills, you get families on their feet and give them a future! ■

Leave a Legacy of Love

Planned giving is a wonderful opportunity to make a life-changing impact across our community... today and for generations to come. In fact, when you include CCA in your will or trust, you can:

- Meet your personal, financial, and estate-planning goals.
- Take advantage of numerous tax and financial benefits.
- Enable us to serve those in need for years to come.

Get our estate planning guide today at ccalegacy.org. And if you'd like to remember or honor a loved one by giving a gift to establish their legacy of compassion and care, it couldn't be easier! Please call (972) 219-4338 to request more information.



Christian Community Action

A NOTE FROM CHASZ

Chasz Parker, President and CEO



Dear Friend,

Every client comes to Christian Community Action with unique needs.

Some are facing a major illness; others, the loss of a job. Still others face unexpected financial needs.

Thanks to friends like you, we accept each one with open arms. You help provide our food pantry, utilities assistance, housing assistance, and spiritual care... giving our community members and neighbors a hand up instead of a hand out.

But a family in crisis requires more than just food and shelter. They need to learn the life skills necessary for achieving stable, long-term employment, economic self-sufficiency, and a better future.

That's where the CCA Life Skills program and resources come in. Friends like you join with our staff and volunteers to provide essential problem-solving, relationship building, and other job readiness skills.

And we are blessed to have area employers willing to partner with us, sharing job openings and helping place clients in positive work environments!

Together, we're helping community members in need find dignity, provide for themselves and their families, and *ultimately climb out of the crisis so they can build a better future.*

So on behalf of Emily, Jean, Ron, and all of the clients who have a new job—and a new life—thanks to the Life Skills program... thank you.

As our Life Skills Coordinator, Androu, says, *"It all comes down to a job!"*

" Together, we're helping community members in need find dignity, provide for themselves and their families..."

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chasz Parker". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Chasz Parker
President and CEO