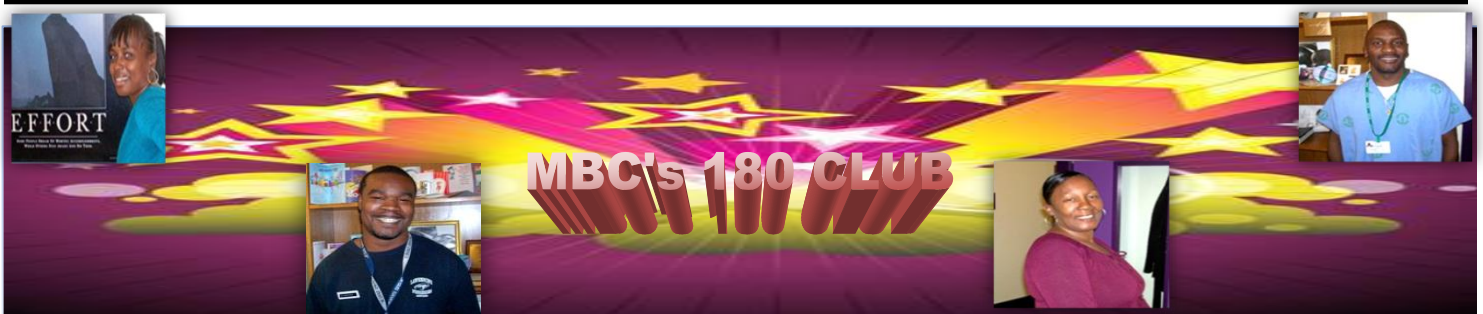


MICHAEL BARLOW CENTER UPDATE



**A Program of St. Leonard's Ministries Providing
Education, Training and Employment Services**

July to December 2010



MBC's Club 180 represents a special group of participants who have been working for at least 180 days. Club Members are recognized and their photos are displayed on the 2nd floor of the Barlow Center. Club 180 is always accepting new applications however membership is contingent upon employment verification.

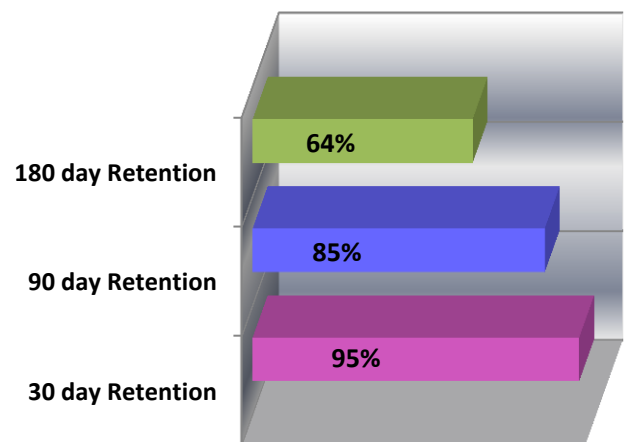
Our newest member, Raphael Cameron, came to the Michael Barlow Center December 2009 seeking employment assistance. He consistently met with staff and kept all appointments. Raphael applied for many positions and remained focused and optimistic during the job search process. In April 2010, he was hired as an Assembly Line Worker for a company that makes steel products for automotive manufacturers, John Deere and other companies in the transportation industry.

In a recent conversation with Raphael, we learned he was promoted to Team Leader and he has 8 people reporting to him. Although he sometimes works as much as 60 hours a week, Raphael sees his employment with the Skokie-based company as "an opportunity to learn as much as possible because there is room for advancement." At the Michael Barlow Center, we promote financial literacy and self-sufficiency and we're excited to report Raphael has opened a bank account and moved into his own apartment. Raphael joins more than sixty Club 180 members who have maintained employment for at least 6 months.

Congratulations to Raphael and the Members of Club 180!!

Job Retention Remains Strong

Job retention rates over a three year period remain consistent. It is clear that when formerly incarcerated men and women get a job, they keep that job often becoming some of the most valuable employees. July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2009, 115 individuals were placed in permanent unsubsidized employment. Ninety-five percent retained the job for 30 days, 85% for 90 days and 64% for 180.



Job Retention Rate for Last 3 Years

Mini Courses Enhance Core Training Programs



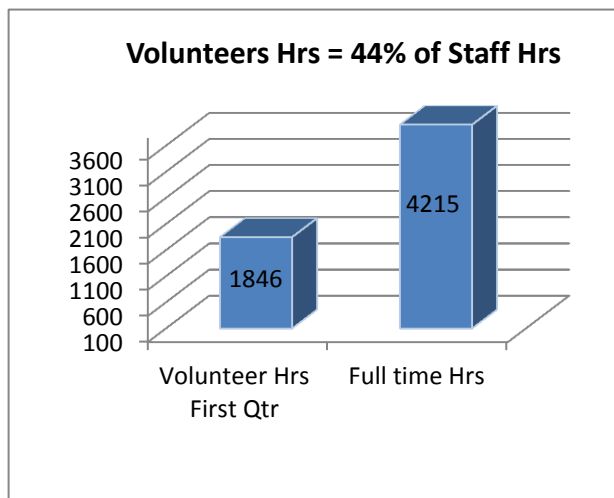
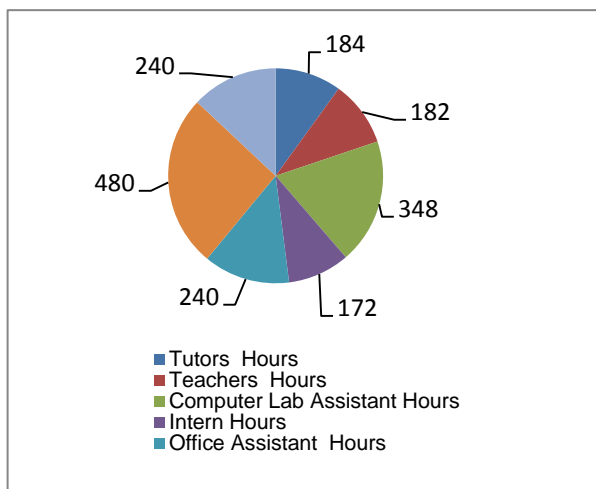
Computer Repair Class Program



Barista Program

To complement our core training programs we have been able to offer several different mini courses: Customer Service Training; Barista Training; Writing Class; Computer Repair and Financial Literacy. The Customer Service Training is a one-week class offered every two months, teaching the interpersonal skills needed in a restaurant setting, but which are applicable to any setting dealing with customers. The Barista Training is a two-week class teaching the art of making and serving coffee-shop drinks such as latte, espresso, cappuccino and frappuccino. Both of these mini courses add value to the resumes of our Basic Culinary graduates. Through collaboration with Career Development Associates we have been able to offer an introductory course in computer repair. A weekly Writing Class is available for interested students to enhance their writing skills, which is particularly helpful to our high school students and those planning to go on to college. All students participate in Money Smarts, learning the basics of money management. All of these mini courses have proved to be very popular with the students.

Leveraging Staff Resources



The programs, training, job services and other opportunities at the Michael Barlow Center would not be possible without the enormous contribution of many volunteers, interns, and senior aides. The hours provided by these dedicated people equate to 44% of our paid staff hours. The Adult High School and tutoring programs would not exist if not for the volunteers. The PC Basics training and all the support for the computer lab are dependent on the non-paid staff. Senior aides provide clerical support as well help with maintaining the building and grounds. The staff, and more importantly, the program participants, owes a debt of gratitude to these generous people.

