



Press Release

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Westhab's Accountability-Based Employment Program Yields Impressive Results



Westhab – a leading provider of affordable housing and social services – has transformed its employment programs and is achieving unprecedented results. Gone is traditional classroom style job trainings in several entry-level fields that don't lead to living wage jobs. Instead, Westhab focuses on teaching job seekers the 'soft skills' they need to thrive in the workplace, and partners with employers who need prospective employees prepared for the world of employment.

At the center of this transformation is Westhab's adaption of the STRIVE employment model to meet customers' needs. STRIVE, a national leader in job training, describes their initiative as "an empowerment movement disguised as an employment agency." In partnership with Westchester County, Westhab has used the STRIVE model to empower public assistance recipients to secure employment and independence.

Westhab's Director of Employment, Joanne Dunn, shares, "Westhab has placed over 500 job seekers in employment each of the last few years. The tough love 'employment boot camp' approach has helped get our job seekers ready for success in the workplace in a range of career sectors including Management, Administrative, Medical and Construction."

In Westhab's most recent cycle of STRIVE, all 15 of the program graduates successfully obtained employment.

Westhab's President & CEO, Richard Nightingale, commented, "In order for people to be self-sufficient, they need income. It's simple. But when you look at the barriers that some people face – limited education and work experience, past troubles in their lives – it is not so simple. 500 job placements each year means 500 people are getting off public assistance, becoming active participants in the economy, and becoming role models for the kids. This is how you break the cycle of poverty."

Securing a 100% job placement rate for STRIVE participants is a phenomenal success and the organization expects this success to continue.

For more information on Westhab's employment programs or if you have jobs that you need filled with qualified candidates, please contact Joanne Dunn at Joanne.Dunn@Westhab.org or (914) 345-2800 x 127.

About Westhab

Westhab's mission is: *Building Communities. Changing Lives.* Headquartered in Yonkers, Westhab is a leading not-for-profit provider of housing and social services for homeless and low-income families throughout Westchester County and the Bronx. Since 1981 Westhab has built 2,500 units of affordable housing, moved 6,000 homeless families to permanent housing, placed 4,000 public assistance recipients into employment, and delivered after-school services to over 10,000 youth. For more information, please see www.westhab.org.

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