



Northern Virginia
Family Service

Training Futures

Newsletter

Summer 2008

Success Stories

Fetene Mamo Accepts Position With Gannett

Fetene had served nearly ten years as a finance and administrative officer for the government of Ethiopia, two years at the Ethiopian Embassy in Djibouti, as well as several years of advanced studies in France and Malaysia. But he gave all that up for a chance to come to the United States.

When he immigrated to Northern Virginia in 2005, he worked in several junior positions in the Washington metropolitan area as an auditor, manager and cashier. Then a friend recommended him to Training Futures.



Fetene Mamo on the job at Gannett Co., Inc.

"Training Futures has a great place in my life and future career," Fetene said recently. "The staff and volunteers are so helpful," and "the variety of people from all over the world makes Training Futures special."

Building on his background and experience, Training Futures assigned Fetene to Gannett Company, Inc. for his internship.

Later, he was offered a temporary position as an Accounting Assistant. Recently, he was promoted to a permanent position as an Accounts Payable Processor. Donna Brenyo, Manager/Payment Services said, "We are very happy to have Fetene as part of our group!"

Even though busy with his full-time job, Fetene has continued his academic journey. After earning 17 credits for the Training Futures curriculum, he took both of the evening NOVA classes offered since January to TF grads, *Introduction to Business* and *Quickbooks*.

Hanaa Zaki Receives Promotion

Hanaa, her husband and their year-old son emigrated from Egypt to the United States in 2002. Although she had been a middle school teacher back home, Hanaa discovered a different work environment here. Her first position was as a server at a major hotel. She worked hard and progressed, but it wasn't what she wanted. Then she found Training Futures.

"I like Training Futures and I owe them a lot," Hanaa said. She liked the staff and volunteers and she was impressed with her fellow trainees, who came from 18 other countries. However, it was at her two-week internship at Inova Fairfax Hospital where Hanaa focused on the medical arena as her career direction.

"I was lucky to find a job with The Cardiovascular Group," where she started in Billing Support and was promoted to Biller in five months. Since then, Hanaa has received another raise as well as a promise of support to become a Certified Professional Coder.

Hanaa's supervisor said, "I am very impressed with how well prepared Hanaa was to take on a new career in medical billing. She applied the skills she learned through Training Futures and quickly became an invaluable member of our team."

Hanaa's husband also graduated from Training Futures last year. "We have full time jobs with full benefits," she said. "Before, we used to ask for government assistance as a low income family. Our jobs are just the start because Training Futures has already helped us to look forward to a bright future."



Hanaa with her supervisor at The Cardiovascular Group

Note: On the morning of July 14, 2008, Hanaa and her husband stopped at Training Futures to proudly announce that they had just been sworn in as US Citizens.

Graduate Thanks Volunteers

Every Wednesday a group of dedicated volunteers provide resume updating and job search assistance for graduates. The following are excerpts from two emails written by a thankful grad.

To Training Futures:

When I went back to Training Futures a couple of weeks ago, I met with Mrs. Anjali Singh. I was empowered by that special force that Training Futures is able to instill. It brought back great memories and a sense of being back home. Mrs. Singh was wonderful to me. She is a One of a Kind Person.

I just wanted to share this experience with you and also at the same time give you thanks for your continuing effort and the positive impact of Training Futures in our community.

Sincerely,
Virginia Guillen
Cycle S11, Class of 2001

Please pass the following to Mrs. Singh...

To Our Grad Lab Volunteer:

Hello Mrs. Singh,

I hope that you remember me. In only one day you gave me the whole amount of goodness that I could expect for the whole year. You were kind, you showed me that you care, and you gave me back my confidence. After taking time to create the *dream resume* from scratch, you sat down with me to give me your insightful advice on issues that were disturbing me. Some of those work-related issues were recent, some were there for some time, just blocking my way to my personal success.

When I handed out my new resume at the end of an interview, the interviewer said to me: "this is very impressive, and it looks so professional." I received the call with the job offer on my way home after the interview.

I remember your words: "*everything will be ok.*" I am happy to tell you that I have been offered a job at Inova Pediatric Center as a Bilingual Medical Receptionist, full time, Monday to Friday, good pay and great benefits.

I want to thank you for all that support in only one day.