



Why become a First Step Business Partner?

First Step is a 14-week job training program that empowers homeless and low-income women to achieve employment and educational goals through computer training, case management, literacy building, internships, job-placement assistance, empathy and hope. First Step exists because thousands of women and their children are caught in the grinding cycle of poverty, dependence on public assistance, and domestic violence. In order to break through personal barriers to achievement, these women need to raise self-esteem by learning job readiness skills, building support networks, and finding productive employment.

Ways You Can Help

First Step partners with corporations, law firms and nonprofit organizations in many ways:

Jobs

You can hire a graduate for a full-time or part-time position at your company. Employment can be as little as a temporary assignment of 20 hours in one week at \$8 per hour. That's a monetary investment of \$160 that pays extraordinary dividends for our graduates and for your company. Our students are eager to work hard and assist you in your office duties, including filing, faxing, photocopying, data entry and other administrative matters. They are ready and willing to work. By you providing one or more of our students with this opportunity, you are making a tremendous difference in their lives. You build their self-esteem, they earn some money, and gain work experience. And you get some paperwork done that's been piled on your desk for months!

Internships

You can host an internship at your company. Interns are placed for 8 weeks, Monday-Thursday, generally 9:00AM-5:00PM (The students attend career development and computer skills workshops at First Step on Fridays). You'll receive an enthusiastic, motivated intern who is committed to learning, working hard, and contributing to the mission of your organization. We stay in close contact with your organization's internship supervisor and the interns. This is an opportunity to play a critical role in helping women gain the skills, experience and confidence they need to be economically self-sufficient.

Corporate Days

Welcome our students into your offices for a day or half-day of workshops, presentations, mock interviewing, tours and inspirational talks. These are fun field trips that demystify the workplace for many of our women who have never been in an office environment. They are rewarding and fulfilling events for your staff members that can improve morale and deepen their commitment to your mission.

Job Coaching/Mentoring, Job Search Counseling, Workshops & Other Opportunities

There are many individual partnering opportunities available with First Step. During the 8-week internship phase, we pair our women with Job Coaches - professional women who can mentor, support and assist our students to navigate their work environment. Through email, phone conversations, and face to face meetings, you are an added support for your students. Job Search Counselors provide one-on-one assistance to graduates on all aspects of their job search, including the drafting and editing of their resumes, cover letters, thank you notes, job applications, and other job search related documents. You can present workshops to our students on topics such as resume writing, interviewing techniques, interpersonal relations and networking. As we are a nonprofit organization, all of our services to our students and graduates are free, and we rely on corporate, government, foundation and individual donations to continue the Program. We also have a modest clothing boutique and a library and are able to provide our students with professional clothing and books. Donations of these items are welcome. One other opportunity is hosting a Graduation at your offices. There are usually approximately 100 attendees.

For more information, please contact:

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