Foundation providing $1 million in grants to help homeless people find jobs

Funds will go to programs that provide training, employment opportunities

BY GARY WARTH
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SAN DIEGO — The Lucky Duck Foundation is providing $1 million in grants to expand or launch new programs to help homeless people find job opportunities and on-the-job training in a variety of fields.

“More individuals in San Diego experiencing homelessness cite employment as the key factor in ending their homelessness than affordable housing,” said Drew Moser, Lucky Duck Foundation’s Executive Director. “This $1 million investment provides critical funding to create training opportunities and jobs for as many as 650 individuals, with the ultimate goal of helping people secure long-term employment to help break the cycle of homelessness.”

The foundation’s previous $1 million investment in employment and job training benefited more than 500 people, he said.
The new initiative will fund several efforts, including the Salvation Army’s food rescue program in partnership with Feeding San Diego, which already has employed 10 people and rescued more than 475,000 pounds of food.

Also receiving funding will be San Diego College of Continuing Education’s PATHWAYS program, which provides access to its more than 75 certificate and training programs, paid internships, comprehensive case management, transportation, basic needs, laptops, and more.

Grants also were awarded to HomeAid San Diego’s Workforce Opportunities for Rebuilding through Knowledge and Skills program, San Diego Youth Services’ “From the Grounds Up” social enterprise coffee shop and the National Conflict Resolution Center’s “Work Readiness Exchange” program.

Other recipients include Dreams for Change’s Dreams’ Cuisine food truck social enterprise, Home Start’s Thrift Boutique and Bright Futures Candles social enterprises and Urban Street Angels and its partner Union of Pan Asian Communities (UPAC) to provide homeless youth with job training and employment opportunities in the fields of culinary arts, graphic design and print production at UPAC’s Neighborhood Enterprise Center.

Grants also were awarded to McAlister Institute’s Work for Hope program and Adjoin, Veterans division, which is starting a pilot program to provide paid training, shadowing, mentoring and support to veterans to become certified direct support professionals.

“We are excited about the opportunity to train our homeless youth about the value of not just getting a job but keeping a job to help them stay off the streets for good,” said Eric Lovett, Founder and CEO of Urban Street Angels.

“San Diego College of Continuing Education specializes in offering support and guidance beyond the classroom to help San Diego’s most vulnerable populations...
succeed in higher education and in the workforce,” said Carlos Cortez, chancellor of the San Diego Community College District. “The College’s learning community specific to students facing housing insecurity supports students to transition directly into jobs with livable wages.”