

ON SITE

Impact a Life thru PVJOBS Website

The general public can now more easily impact a life of a PVJOBS participant by visiting PVJOBS' new website. The website enables online visitors to invest in the future of PVJOBS

IMPACT A PVJOBS PARTICIPANT'S LIFE

3 WAYS TO GIVE!



1. DONATE 2. SPONSOR 3. PURCHASE

participants by offering them three ways to give: Making a donation, sponsoring a participant, or purchasing a piece of furniture built by our very own participants!

To learn more about how to make a difference, please visit pvjobs.org.

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Octoberfest Creates Joyful Space for PVJOBS Participants' Families

PVJOBS held an Octoberfest event in October for about 25 participants and their families to give them an opportunity to enjoy fun activities commemorating the harvest season.



PVJOBS participant Edward Tate (far right) sits with his niece, nephew and a family friend as they enjoy Octoberfest activities while an event volunteer dressed as The Grinch assists the group.

Families attended the event during a staggered schedule to ensure meeting socially distancing guidelines.

During the event, one child from each family received a pumpkin to paint and decorate. Other activities included a photo booth and raffle giveaways, and all families were treated to an array of food and goodie bags.

"We held Octoberfest to give participants and their families a place to celebrate the harvest season together, especially amidst everything happening in the world right now," said Olga Lopez, PVJOBS Program Manager. "This event also gives us an opportunity to let our participants know that we're still here to support them."

PVJOBS participant Edward Tate was grateful to bring his niece, nephew and a young family friend to the event. "I'm here to get the kids out to have fun," said Tate, a union apprentice. "All of this shows how much PVJOBS is so hands-on and supportive."

PVJOBS Donates Safety Supplies at Grab & Go Event

More than 150 South Los Angeles residents received free food, safety equipment and school supplies during the Grab & Go Resource Day held at the Gilbert Lindsay Recreation Center in September. PVJOBS gave away safety supplies at the donation event, which was held to provide food and useful resources to South Los Angeles community members in need.

The Grab & Go Resource Day was made possible by the Office of Los Angeles City Councilman Curren Price as well as a partnership of charitable organizations, including Bookmobile by Dr. Cataldo, GRYD, Homies Unidos, L.A. Pulse, Resilient, Soledad Enrichment Action, and Volunteers of America. During the event, PVJOBS volunteers handed out masks, gloves, hand wipes and sanitizers to local community members.

"It's apparent that there's a lot of need in this community that's within blocks of where PVJOBS is based," said PVJOBS Program Manager Ashley Martinez. "So it was important for PVJOBS to be a part of this event and give back to our neighbors."

Participants of PVJOBS' Right Turn program volunteered at the giveaway event. Right Turn, which is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration and led by the Institute for Educational Leadership, offers education, mentoring and career development services for young adults who have had involvement in the juvenile or adult justice system. "We utilized this event as a restorative justice opportunity for several of our Right Turn participants," said Martinez. "It was a way for our participants to give back by doing something positive for the community."



A PVJOBS volunteer hands out a free safety package to a local resident at the recent Grab & Go Resource Day.

PVJOBS Gives Away 800 Turkeys to Community Residents

Hundreds of local residents lined up at PVJOBS' Headquarters days before Thanksgiving to receive free turkeys for the 10th Annual Turkey Giveaway. About 800 turkeys were handed out during the event to benefit low-income families during the holiday season.

At the event, residents were greeted by PVJOBS staff, program participants and volunteers as they awaited their turn to walk



Top Left: Scores of local residents line up in front of the PVJOBS building in anticipation of receiving a free turkey. Top Right: A family walks up to receive their complimentary turkey at the annual giveaway event.

up and receive their turkeys while streamed music filled the atmosphere to entertain the crowd. PVJOBS program participants were also invited to the event to pick up free turkeys.

PVJOBS offered its first ever drive-thru pick-up service to enable individuals to drive up to the event to receive their turkeys while stationed in their cars. Social distancing measures were observed during the event to ensure that the giveaway was safe for community members as well as for staff, program participants and volunteers.

Arlin Pojoy, Programs Billing Director for PVJOBS, believes that the annual event is important because it demonstrates the organization's unity with the community and that they're here to support local residents. "I'm happy and grateful to be a part of something that is so rewarding and gives back to the community," she said. "It's inspiring for my kids to be a part of this experience to show them how we're able to help community members."

The event was sponsored by Hensel Phelps, and collaborative efforts to assist with the giveaway were made by the Los Angeles County Probation Department, Los Angeles Police Department, Office of Los Angeles City Councilman Curren D. Price Jr. (District 9), and Volunteers of America Gang Reduction Youth Development.

Like Father, Like Son: Marlin Brown Sr. & Jr.

PVJOBS participant Marlin Brown Sr. has served as a union iron worker on numerous development projects throughout the city. His current assignment at LAX is one of his favorite jobs, especially since his son Marlin Brown Jr., also a union worker who followed in his father's footsteps by joining PVJOBS, is working for the same rebar company. "I never thought we'd ever get jobs where you can talk about one day getting a pension," said the elder Marlin. "PVJOBS has truly been a blessing to us."

When Brown Sr. first visited PVJOBS in 2013 with the hope of



(From left) Marlin Brown Jr. with his dad Marlin Brown Sr. at the PVJOBS headquarters.

making a better life for himself and his son, he never expected the move to be such a game changer in his life. "I was going through some rough times on the streets not long after being incarcerated, and I really wanted a change for myself," he said. "PVJOBS took a chance on me. But they said I'd have to work for it."

Understanding the rare career opportunity he was given, he worked hard at every assignment PVJOBS referred him to over the next several years. By earning a positive track record for his job performances, he landed a rebar assignment that lasted for three years and eventually led to him joining the iron workers union. Realizing the benefits of being a union member, he ignited the same vision for his son. "When my dad got in the union, he encouraged me to join too so I could take care of my family," said Brown Jr., a husband and father of three young children.

While his dad inspired his career path on many levels, the younger Brown acknowledges PVJOBS for serving as the foundation for both his and his dad's professional journey.

Never Too Late: Pierre Lewis

Pierre Lewis is a perfect example of the old adage, "You're never too old. It's never too late." At age 61, Lewis is accomplishing his lifelong dream of earning a college degree. Through PVJOBS' Hatch Program that offers educational opportunities to formerly incarcerated individuals, Lewis is studying Addiction Studies at Los Angeles City College, maintaining a 4.0 GPA. "PVJOBS gave me the direction to get into school," he said. "I appreciate their mission."



Pierre Lewis on a recent visit to the PVJOBS offices.

What makes Lewis' collegiate endeavors such a success story is that he began his college pursuits after spending half his adult life in prison. Raised by a single mother in Washington, D.C., Lewis got caught up in the streets as a young teen and began using heroin by age 15. His drug use and subsequent life of crime led to a string of prison sentences over the next three decades. After his last prison release in spring 2019, he made up his mind that it would be his last. "I had matured in

prison," he revealed. "I knew at my age if I hadn't stopped the cycle, it would have never ended."

While staying in a halfway house in Los Angeles, he attended a PVJOBS presentation. As he learned about the construction trainings and services, he was particularly drawn to their educational programs. "At my age, I wanted to do something that facilitated my personal growth and development," said Lewis, who enrolled as a PVJOBS participant the very same day. A few weeks later, he participated in a college prep course, becoming a full-time college student the following month. "I literally went from convict to college student," he said.

With plans to graduate next year, Lewis has already received a job offer to work as a monitor for a local homeless outreach program, fulfilling his career aspirations of giving back to the community. But even more fulfilling is seeing how his life transformation has impacted his family. During a recent trip to his hometown to visit his mother and two adult children, he was able to meet his grandchildren for the very first time. Reminiscing the moment, he shared, "My son told me how proud he is of me."

LAPD Partners with PVJOBS for Toy & Food Drive

To help uplift spirits during the Christmas season, PVJOBS partnered with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) in December to give away toys and food to about 1,000 community members in need. Co-sponsored by PVJOBS, the toy and food drive



LAPD Officer Gabriel Flores hands out a toy to an anticipating child during the Christmas giveaway event.

took place at the South Park Recreation Center in South Los Angeles and was coordinated by the LAPD's nearby Newton Division.

The toy and food drive was organized as a drive-thru event to meet social distancing guidelines. A steady line of cars were wrapped around the block as drivers awaited their turn to drive up and receive the donated items. LAPD staff, PVJOBS staff and volunteers handed out a toy for each child per family as well as food and COVID care packages.

"Our toy and food drive was such a great event for everyone," said Laura Padilla, Executive Assistant for PVJOBS. "We were able to impact so many families in our community through this event."

LAPD Officer Gabriel Flores helped organize the annual event on behalf of the Department. He says that the LAPD holds the event each year as a meaningful way to reach out to neighborhood residents. "Our mission is to bridge the gap between the precinct and the community," said Flores, who represents the LAPD Newton Division's Community Safety Partnership initiative. "Through events like these, people can see us in a different way. It shows them that we're human."

The food packages were provided by the Office of Ninth District Los Angeles City Councilman Curren Price, and toys were donated by OKK Toys. Other event community partners were Avalon Carver Community Center, Community Safety Partnership South Park, GRDYD, Porsche Downtown Los Angeles, Resilient, Soledad Enrichment Action, and Volunteers of America.