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IN WEEK OF BIG LAYOFFS, 17 HOMELESS RESIDENTS IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIND EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INNVISION ONE-STOP HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION CENTER

SAN JOSE, Calif., January 30, 2009 This week, as the news media was flooded with reports of large corporate lay-offs and swelling unemployment rolls, a small job fair made a big impact in the lives of 17 homeless residents of Santa Clara County.

The One-Stop Homelessness Prevention program at InnVision Georgia Travis Center hosted two employment events in conjunction with Safeway to provide employment education and on-the-spot hiring for homeless residents of Santa Clara County.

At the first event on Thursday 1/22, Safeway representatives gave event attendees tips on job application procedures and interview techniques. Interested applicants then returned for a second event this week, where Safeway conducted interviews and evaluated the attendees on their application of the information from the previous event. 86 attended the events and got experience with the application and interview process—for some this was their first formal job interview; 17 well-prepared attendees were hired.

Lolly Caylor, who has been homeless for 6 months, said, “At the workshop on Thursday, the Safeway people gave us a heads-up about what to expect and how to dress. They gave us copies of the job descriptions for the available positions and asked us to come prepared with two ideas about where we would work best—that is what helped me get the job. Having a network of support at the One-Stop at InnVision has been so much help to me.”

The One-Stop Homelessness Prevention Center at InnVision Georgia Travis Center is a new public-private venture supported by the City of San Jose, County of Santa Clara, and Destination: Home, with the goal of ending homelessness in the South Bay by connecting people who are homeless and those who are at-risk of becoming homeless with vital income, housing, and support services in one easy-to-access location. In January, the One-Stop at InnVision connected 546 people with needed services.

You can support the work of the One-Stop at InnVision by contacting CEO, Christine Burroughs at 408-213-5170 or visiting the InnVision website at www.InnVision.org.

INNVISION serves more than 20,000 people in Silicon Valley annually at 20 locations. Over the past 35 years InnVision has developed housing and resources to help the homeless and severely at-risk become stable and self-sufficient. Homeless men, women, children, veterans and those diagnosed with mental illness are able to choose from a full range of housing and services that includes shelters, supportive transitional and permanent housing and multiservice day centers- all successfully tailored to support and accommodate the needs of most vulnerable in Silicon Valley. To learn more about InnVision or to make a donation, please visit www.InnVision.org or call (408) 292-4286. Additional event photos are available if needed.
