

April 2023

On Friday, March 26, 6 members of our Resident Client program graduated from the Pre-Employment Preparation Program (PEPP) funded by Washington State Department of Transportation. This class is a four-week program designed to provide an apprentice-like approach to students who learn hands-on job skills like forklift operation, masonry, traffic control as well as basic construction math, and financial literacy. The goal is to provide skills that will connect grads to apprenticeships that will then lead to living wage, state jobs.

The program was designed to serve those with disadvantages entering the workforce, such as former incarceration or those without high school diplomas. This class was special in that it served people who were currently experiencing homelessness from House of Charity and Camp Hope. When Resident Client (RC) Coordinator Lyndsi, first reached out to gauge interest in participating, there was immediate enthusiasm for the program. Much went into supporting the RC's in being successful and seeing the program through to the finish. Lyndsi helped provide transportation to and from class, coordinated daily packed lunches to make sure students were fueled, and helped resource clean, appropriate clothes for the training program. She also provided a tremendous amount of moral support. For many, class participation stirred feelings of insecurity and fear of failure. Lyndsi was there every step of the way to cheer them on.

For the participants, being in room with others who were also familiar with the journey through homelessness offered great reassurance. One person shared that it meant a lot to know that he was not the only person experiencing homelessness in the class, as is often the case. "Everyone here gets me," he said. What was evident on the day of graduation was the level of confidence of those in the program was tremendous. Our RC's entered the program hopeful but unsure. It was a scary proposition to try something new. Through hard work and perseverance, all could proudly receive their certificate knowing that they dug in, worked hard, and earned an opportunity to continue to move towards fruitful opportunities.

House of Charity is so proud of our grads. What was evident on the day of graduation was the tremendous level of confidence of those completing the program.

