



ANNUAL REPORT

— 2024 - 2025 —



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: TAMMY STARK

Friends of Career Solutions (FOCS) was created as a nonprofit in 2017 to increase the participation of young people in the CareerONE program. Career Solutions, as the implementing partner, successfully grew the program from 40 youth to 200 thanks to the support from FOCS and the community.

Innovative staff at Career Solutions have introduced programs to the partnership supported by FOCS, Career Solutions, and the community like Job Club, Job Seeker Open Houses, and Career Discovery Days are flourishing. CentraCare has continued to assist CareerONE, in all aspects of the program, and we rely heavily on their input with the healthcare training initiative. PCI and MCI Carpet One have been longtime supporters and Thomas Ritsches' Central Minnesota Community Foundation grant supported the Construction & Manufacturing track.



United Way of Central Minnesota has continued their support of the program. St. Cloud Technical & Community College has consistently found ways to further assist, educate, and support the needs of participants.

We are so grateful for these and the many other foundations, businesses and individuals who have chosen to support Friends of Career Solutions initiatives over the years. It's not only a good thing to do for the youth and the community but it also means the community is banking on its future.

Tammy Stark

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Friends of Career Solutions Board

Tammy Stark - Career Solutions - Executive Director

David Borgert - Strategic Associates, LLC - Board Chair

Crystal Lahr - ATS Logistical Services, Inc. - Treasurer

Dominique Hollomon - Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota - Secretary

Jama Alimad - Board Member



Meet the Chair of Friends of Career Solutions David Borgert

David Borgert has been the board chair since the organization's formation in 2017 although he has been engaged with Career Solutions since 2008. Borgert has held numerous leadership positions in various governing local organizations and is an expert that we can count on. "Being part of this organization and seeing its success is a rewarding experience. We are helping to assure a brighter future for our communities by not only assisting businesses to recruit and retain employees but also by increasing the skills and workforce readiness of the future workforce."

-David Borgert

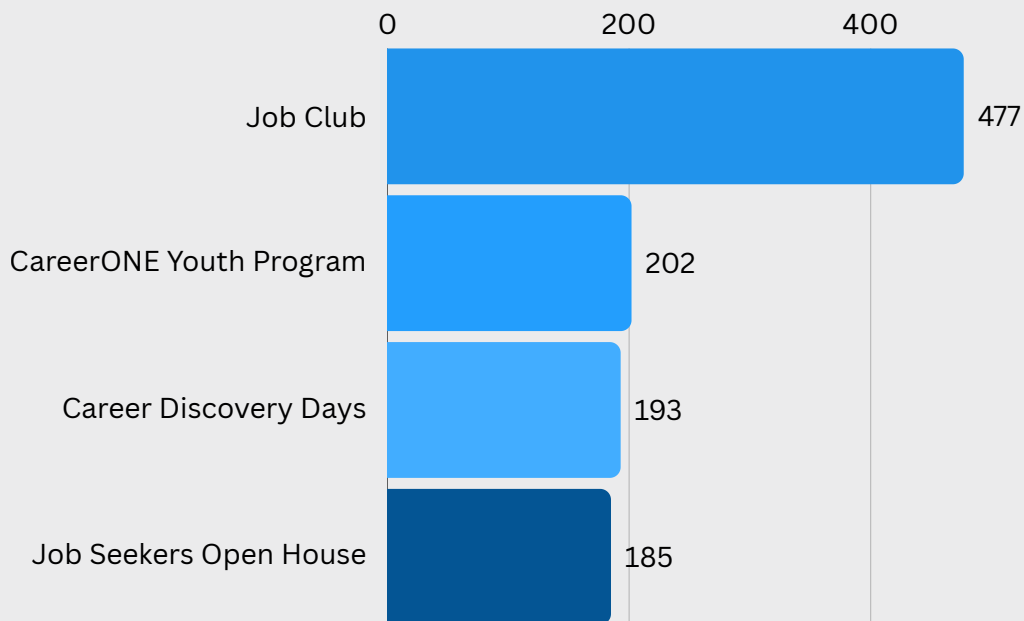
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FRIENDS OF CAREER SOLUTIONS YOUTH & JOB SEEKERS SERVED

Youth & Job Seekers



Total: 1057

CAREERONE

CareerONE Youth Program

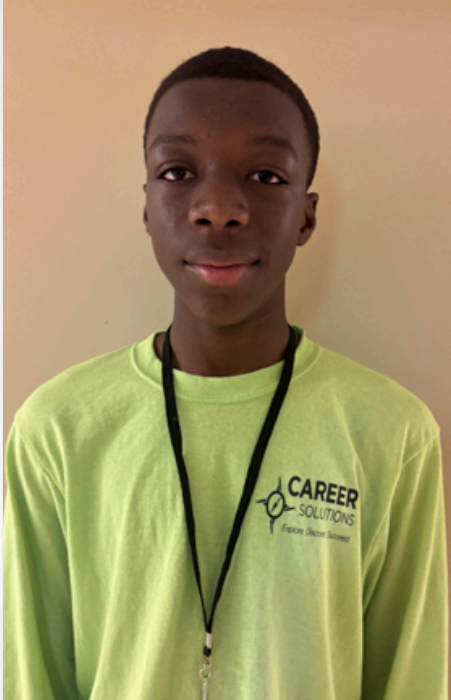
CareerONE is a work readiness program for youth ages 14-17 that started in 2001. Youth learn the process of finding a job, while honing life skills and academic progress. The program has grown from 40 teens to 200. Beyond work readiness skills, youth earn college credits and skills, taking them to in-demand jobs in careers including healthcare, construction and manufacturing, public safety, and early childhood education. Sponsorships, donations, and grants support the program. Teens prepare for the workforce and receive experience in the rigors and rewards of work. They earn college credits, have hands-on experiences and delve into possibilities for their future. Math and reading challenges are addressed. Financial skills are learned, and community service projects are tackled. In the summer of 2025 teens performed cleanup projects at Lake George, worked on the grounds of CentraCare and tied blankets for Gillette Children's Hospital and CentraCare - Coborn Cancer Center. Friendships were made and skills were mastered.



CareerONE participants



CAREERONE TESTIMONIALS



Alhaj N. CareerONE youth

“CareerONE has been a life-changing experience. I took part in CareerONE to gain real work experience, learn new skills, and better equip myself for my professional career. I came in ready to push myself, and I'm leaving with valuable lessons and experiences that I will benefit from throughout my life.

Through CareerONE, I came to appreciate the value of working with a team, communicating effectively, and demonstrating leadership. Serving as a youth mentor further helped me instill these skills and better equip myself for the future. I had hands-on experience within a professional setting, learning problem-solving skills, prioritizing time, and adjusting to novel challenges. These skills developed a sense of responsibility within me and increased my confidence.

Leadership, teamwork, critical thinking, and professionalism were some of the most important skills that I learned. I was able to learn to communicate better with my coworkers and leaders, to start and stay in activities, and organize myself throughout the tasks. CareerONE also taught me how to make a resume, complete job applications, and prepare for an interview—things that will come in handy when I am looking for future jobs.” -Alhaj N.

“When I first heard of CareerONE, I was surprised with the benefits of the program. In just a short amount of time you learn new jobs skills, earn college credits, and you earn money!

The first week was something I could never forget. The environment and my peers helped me get comfortable and warm up almost instantly, even though I didn't know anyone. The people involved were the kind of people I knew I'd get along with- dedicated, hardworking, and friendly. Even though I wasn't the most extroverted person, I got along with my team and talked with lots of new people.

CareerONE helped expand my understanding and knowledge of many things, both in healthcare and jobs in general. We got in depth with safety, money smarts, and career exploration. I am more than glad I have taken the steps to attend CareerONE, and I would most definitely do it again in the future.” - Hannah B.



Hannah B. CareerONE youth

DISCOVERY DAYS

Career Discovery Days

Businesses, local instructors, career planners and job seekers are paired in specialty centered career discussions and hands-on experiences. Focused career paths include: CDL Truck Driving, Welding, Manufacturing Facilities Maintenance/Boiler and Construction.

Discovery Day Attendance:

Welding: 34

Manufacturing: 20

Construction: 15

Maintenance/Boiler: 25

CDL Truck Driving: 99

Total: 193



Discovery Day Participants



OPEN HOUSE EVENTS

Job Seeker Open House Events

Job seekers can attend Open House events to become more aware of the employment and training services offered and obtain assistance, so they are better prepared for their next career.

Job Seeker Attendance:

Fall - *Back to Work*: 60 Attendees

Winter - *THRIVE in 2025*: 60 Attendees

Spring - *HELLO Spring*: 65 Attendees

Total: 185



Open House Events

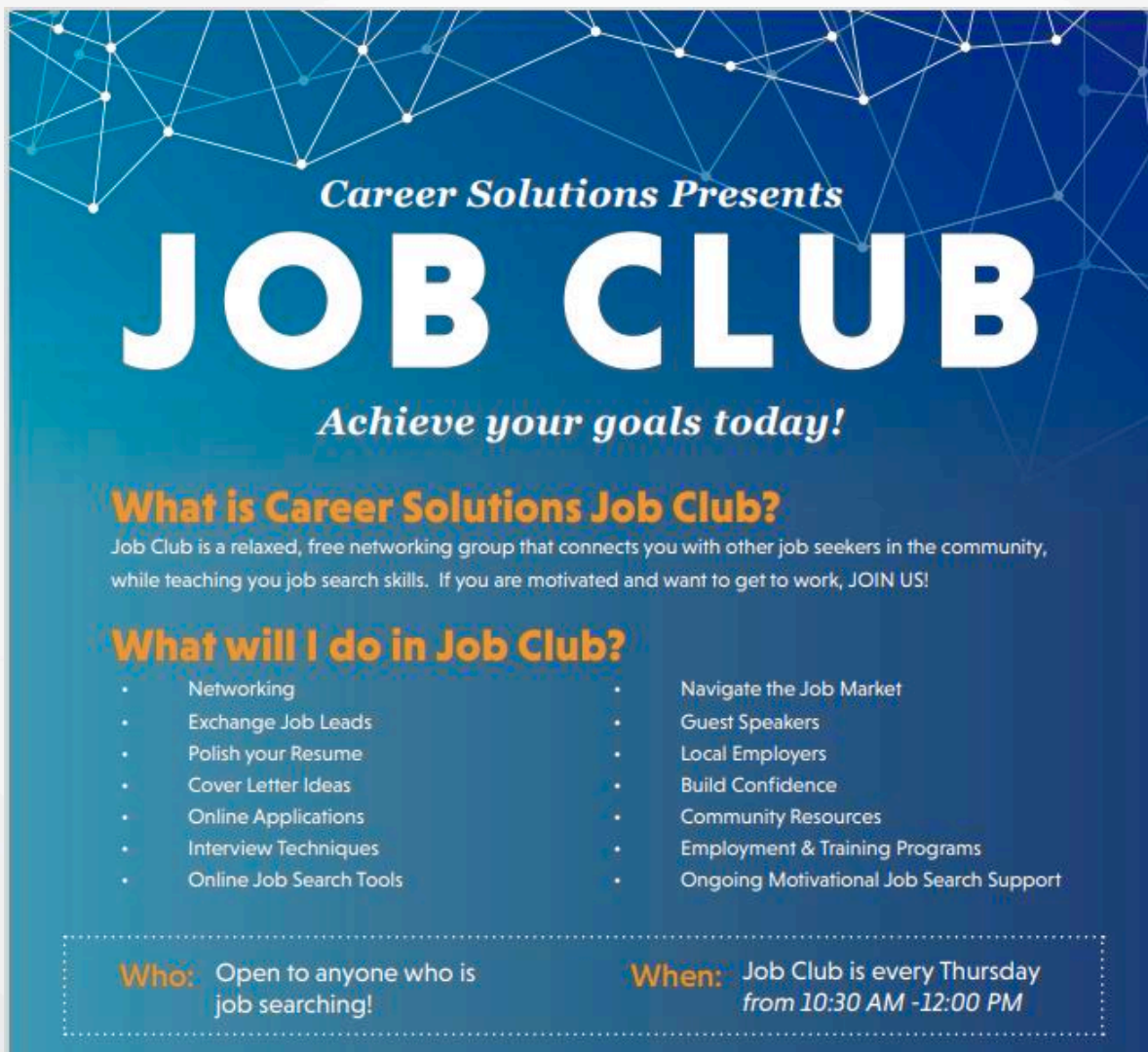
JOB CLUB

Job Club

This is a networking group facilitated by a career planner that connects job seekers in the community, while teaching job skills.

Job Club Attendance

Total: 477



Career Solutions Presents

JOB CLUB

Achieve your goals today!

What is Career Solutions Job Club?

Job Club is a relaxed, free networking group that connects you with other job seekers in the community, while teaching you job search skills. If you are motivated and want to get to work, JOIN US!

What will I do in Job Club?

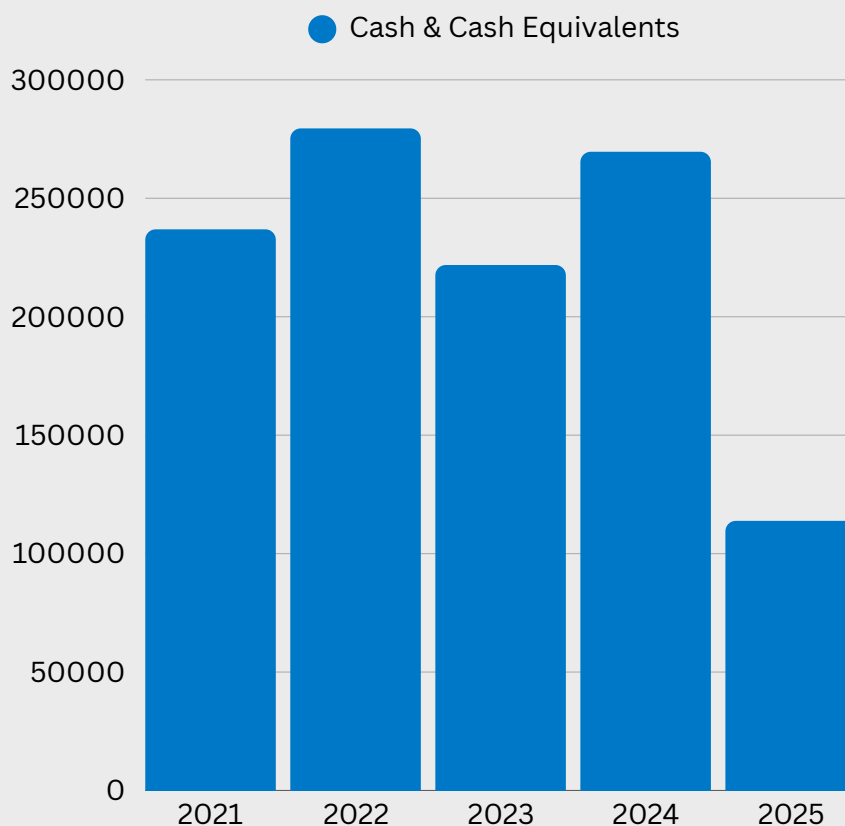
- Networking
- Exchange Job Leads
- Polish your Resume
- Cover Letter Ideas
- Online Applications
- Interview Techniques
- Online Job Search Tools
- Navigate the Job Market
- Guest Speakers
- Local Employers
- Build Confidence
- Community Resources
- Employment & Training Programs
- Ongoing Motivational Job Search Support

Who: Open to anyone who is job searching!

When: Job Club is every Thursday from 10:30 AM -12:00 PM

FINANCIAL REPORT

Cash and Cash Equivalents

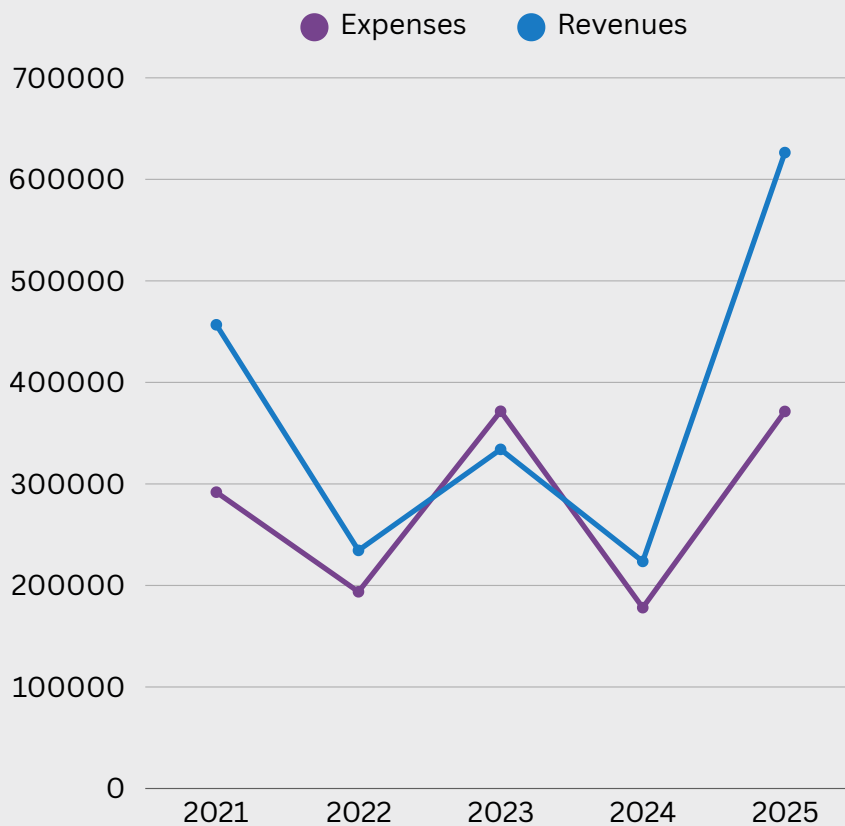


Cash & Cash Equivalents Totaled

2021: \$236,889
2022: \$279,496
2023: \$221,828
2024: \$269,637
2025: \$113,828

FINANCIAL REPORT CONTINUED...

Expenses



Revenues

2021: \$456,754
2022: \$234,543
2023: \$334,050
2024: \$223,690
2025: \$626,373

Expenses

2021: \$291,894
2022: \$193,773
2023: \$371,568
2024: \$178,133
2025: \$371,401

THANK YOU

Thank you for your Support!

Thank you to our generous Sponsors, Donors and Partners!



SUPPORT OUR WORK

Help us Build Brighter Futures Together

Support our mission to partner with youth and adults to build the skillsets and mindsets that lead to lifelong learning, livelihood, and leadership.

Other ways to make an impact:



Donate Online

One-time or monthly tax-deductible donation:

Visit:

www.givemn.org/donate/Friends-Of-Career-Solutions



Donate by Mail

Checks payable to "Friends of Career Solutions" and mailed to:

Career Solutions

Attn: Tammy Stark

1542 Northway Drive

St. Cloud, MN 56303



In-Kind Donations

Do you have materials that would be useful to CareerONE or our other programs?

Contact

Executive Director, Tammy Stark

Tammy.Stark@csjobs.org



Volunteer

To assist with mock interviews, company tours, career presentations or mentoring, contact Tammy Stark
Tammy.Stark@csjobs.org



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