

**From:** Jeffrey Stein

**Sent:** Friday, May 12, 2006 1:01 PM

**To:** Jeffrey Stein

**Subject:** News from YouthForce/TeenJobs.org

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May 2006

# The YouthForce Gazette

## Youth Development That Works.



So far, 2006 has been unbelievable for YouthForce. *The Seattle Times* ran a great article about us in the front page of the Sunday, March 12th Job Section. The article, titled “The Kids in the Middle,” and it featured our **ZymoGenetics** teens. Check it out [here!](#) The article also references the amazing informational interview that four YouthForce teens had with **Jeffrey Brotman (Costco Wholesale co- founder and Chairman of the Board)**. He was inspirational- he made me a Costco believer *for life*, and more importantly, he made the teens feel understood, powerful and capable. Just take a look at their smiles! From left Xuyen Nguyen, Carlos Estrada, Jeffrey Brotman, Shuk Kam, and Azmera Melashu. Read more about it below in our [Happenings section](#).

We also want to thank The **Paul G. Allen Family Foundation**, **Kirkpatrick Foundation** and **Costco Foundation** for their investment in YouthForce. We truly appreciate their belief in the importance of our work. We also wouldn't have been able to do it all without our employer partners and our incredibly committed board members. All that said, we could serve many more deserving motivated teens if we had more employer partners signed on! To learn how easy and rewarding our program is for employers, contact us [here](#) at our newly designed website! Phew, just writing it all makes me tired. -**Jeffrey Stein, Executive Director**

## Recent Graduate Success Stories

*YouthForce is a youth development and internship program, promoting low income and minority teens' academic, personal, and career achievement through individualized goal setting conferences, education, and employment coaching, and paid professional internships throughout the school year and summer.*

*The average internship lasts about 8 months, resulting in about 280 hours of meaningful employment for the teen. We bid a fond goodbye and a hearty onward and upward to the teens who have recently completed their internships. Featured below are two recent graduates of our program:*



**Kevin M.** impressed the HR team at **Amazon.com**.

“I learned a lot and was really made to feel part of the team. I learned that each person has something to bring to the table and the success of the company relies on everyone doing their share.” – Kevin Merritt, YouthForce teen  
Read more about Kevin here. [here](#).



**Alexandra H.** becomes a Public Relations pro at **PRR**.

“Working at PRR has definitely been a privilege; it’s been one of the best things to ever happen to me. The skills and confidence I’ve gained through this experience are worth far more than the money I’ve earned.” - Alexandra Helling, YouthForce teen. Read more about Alexandra [here](#).

## New Hire Success Stories

*We’d like to take a moment to acknowledge a couple of our recent hires and the companies that recognized their outstanding talent, drive, leadership abilities, and strong work ethics.*



**Hassan A.’s** hard work and easy smile lands him a job at **Coughlin Porter Lundeen**

“Coughlin Porter Lundeen depends on the valuable contributions that Youthforce employees bring to the workplace. Hassan is an excellent example of the type of candidate we look for: intelligent, confident, dependable, and full of personality! Hassan, like the many other teens we've worked with, is an integral part of our daily goals and accomplishments. We're fortunate to have paired with such an outstanding and reputable partner as Youthforce.” – Claire Baker, Office Manager, Coughlin Porter Lundeen. Read more about Hassan [here](#).



**Willie K.** launches her scientific career at **ZymoGenetics!**

“Willie’s a quick study--she's integrated into the group, and her outgoing nature makes her a nice addition. She knows when to stop and ask for help, which is great. So far, she's doing really well—she’s a great intern for us,” says her supervisor Andrew Ching. Read more about Willie [here](#).

## Great Talent On Deck

*We are pleased to present a glimpse of the caliber of teens we have currently in our program who are actively seeking the opportunity to work in a professional environment.*



## SCIENCE

**Netanya Bledsoe** is a young woman who has demonstrated time and again that she is a person who creates her own opportunities. We met her when she showed up to volunteer at YouthForce with her friend Sierra Jones (whom we last featured in our Great Talent on Deck, and is now employed at **Tatley-Grund**.)

Netayna impressed us with her maturity, enthusiasm, and willingness to be helpful. She shared that she is eager for a meaningful work experience, so we encouraged her to submit an application.

Netanya is a junior at **Foster High School**, and takes college level classes at **Seattle Central Community College** through Running Start. Her goal is to be a doctor, so she is interested in Science/Biotech. She did a job shadow at **Amgen**, and it confirmed for her that she was on the right track. She also has a goal of becoming fluent in Spanish, so she volunteers teaching an evening class in English to Spanish-speaking adults. If you are looking for a hardworking, self-starter who is eager to create more good opportunities and experiences for herself, then Netanya could be your next employee!



## BUSINESS/TECHNOLOGY

**Ian Gonzales** walked into our office holding a book entitled *Understanding Wall Street* under his arm. When asked what class it was for, he replied, "It's just for fun." In addition to self motivating his enrichment, this **Cleveland High School** sophomore takes senior level advanced classes such as Pre-Calculus and Physics. He is interested in business, e-commerce, and technology. When we asked why he wanted to pursue technology related business, he said that he was inspired by Ayn Rand's classic book, *Atlas Shrugged*.

Ian graduated from the **University of Washington's** Upward Bound program with an award for Excellence in Web Design, and has experience with many different software applications including Photoshop CS, Dreamweaver Flash, and the Microsoft Office suite. He excelled in the highly competitive **Lakeside High School's** LEEP (Lakeside Educational Enrichment Program), a summer program for students entering ninth grade. He has prior work experience with Team Read and has a long history of volunteer work; Chess Club Teacher at **Aki Kurose Middle School**, leadership position for his church Youth Group, a tutor for his church's teen study sessions, helping with renovation and cleaning projects at church, and singing in the church choir. If you are looking for a smart, motivated, compassionate teen, please contact YouthForce about Ian.

## YouthForce Happenings

*We'd like to share some of the educational and engaging events that have been keeping us busy:*

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We have had many wonderful opportunities to engage our teens in the community at large, including participating in **Microsoft's** Martin Luther King celebration, and the **Washington Society of CPA's** chapter meeting. *Photo from left: Microsoft's Senior Director of Finance, CT Tomlin and Sierra Jones, YouthForce Teen.*

We were most honored to have Jeffrey Brotman, Chairman of the Board, Costco, take the time to meet with a group of our teens. Our sincerest thanks go to Mr. Brotman, and to **CEO and President of Costco, Jim Sinegal** who stopped by as well. There can be no greater way to convey the deep, personal connection and the inspiration that the time with Mr. Brotman provided each teen, than with the words from two of the teens themselves:



**Carlos Estrada**

What struck me the most of our conversation with Jeff Brotman was that he was raised by an immigrant family, just like me. Our great expectations were embedded within us from our youth and nothing less than our best do we both accept. People like Jeff offer motivation and provide evidence that success can be achieved through hard work. It is clear that it is not necessary to be born into a wealthy family to get to where you want to be in life. So long as I stick to my goals, am not afraid to ask for help, and have a positive view on life I am sure I will one day be the doctor I dream to become. Even though Mr. Brotman is successful in the eyes of many, he still gives back to his community and enjoys making a difference. I admire him for going beyond what is necessary and for changing the paths of those around him. Spending time with a group of teenagers may seem insignificant to those whom were not present at our interview. For me, every minute offered inspiration and advice that I will certainly use as I continue through life.



**Shuk Kam** - Excerpted from thank you letter to Mr. Brotman:

As a high school student, I was mostly interested to know about your high school years. I wanted to know what kind of hardships that you might have been through, while growing up and understanding how to work with your family in a small family business. I related your story about your younger years when you said you emigrated with your family from Canada to Tacoma and it became a new beginning for you. My parents and I emigrated here from China when I was three years old, with a dream of a better life. While growing up, certain experiences and hardships have helped to shape me along side my schooling and my relationship with my parents. Whenever I shut my eyes, I can again see my past clearly where those hardships and experiences unfolded. The memories have not yet faded; I suspect they never will.

I especially liked hearing your belief that it is an essential skill to seek out people who are different from you, because it helps you to learn about people. "A variety of people that have a variety of skills." I think that this was meaningful. I truly admired how much time you had given to us to truly talk about you and giving details about

your life in high school, college, early career, present career and thoughts.

## YouthForce Superstars

*Our feature where we acknowledge some of the people and organizations that help make YouthForce successful.*

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We held our 5th annual *Know Money Tour* at **Franklin High School,**

**Ballard High School,** and **Cleveland High School.** The *Know Money Tour* provided young adults with free income tax help, scholarship resources, and financial planning assistance. All told, the teens, received over \$3,000 back

We could not have done it without the committed and caring accountants who took time out of their hectic schedules, at the height of tax season yet, to help teens do their taxes. So please join us in acknowledging **Lillie Campbell** from **Clark Nuber,** **David Jackson** from **Harvest Capital Advisors,** **Donald Torcaso** from **Boeing,** CPAs **Eileen Elamin,** **Shaun Han** and, for the second year volunteering in a row , **Paula Bishop.** Each of these professionals spent quality time with the teens, making a difference in the community quietly, one person at a time. They are truly compassionate leaders in their field!

Additional thanks go out to our sponsors **Key Bank,** **NELA,** and **Jump Start WA** for being at both events providing the teens with much needed information, and to the fine folks at Franklin, Ballard, and Cleveland for hosting us this year.

## YouthForce In The News

*We have been very fortunate to have received great press over the past couple of months.*

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In addition to the fantastic *Seattle Times* article mentioned above, **John Miller,** **Cushman Wakefield's** senior **managing director,** writes about Youth Force in a *Puget Sound Business Journal* article. He uses YouthForce as an example of how hiring our young people helps them fulfill their commitment to increasing diversity in the workplace in the *Puget Sound Business Journal.* Read the entire article [here.](#)

Our own **Xuyen Nguyen** was the very first teen to be featured in the **My First Job** section of *The Seattle Times.* See the story [here.](#)

## YouthForce How You Can Help

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- HIRE A TEEN
- HIRE A TEEN
- HIRE A TEEN

email: [jeffrey@youthforce.com](mailto:jeffrey@youthforce.com)  
phone: 206.344.3310  
web: <http://www.TeenJobs.org>

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