

Transforming RPI to Meet the Challenges of COVID-19

Restoration Project International (RPI) has provided support to victims and survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence. Face-to-face support became impossible when the Coronavirus pandemic arrived this spring. It forced us to change the way we deliver our programs; we chose to change in a purposeful way, to adjust to changing needs of people in our community whose labor has been taken by force or coercion, or without compensation. The pandemic has massively disrupted people's lives, destroyed many livelihoods, and made it extremely likely that people are being compelled to do work that endangers them. As the broader community recovers from COVID-19 disruptions, the population we serve is at high risk of being left behind. The threats to their economic resources and opportunities do not appear to be temporary. To prepare to meet the current and looming needs of our community, with no expectation of a recovery to pre-COVID circumstances, RPI has joined forces with government agencies, nonprofit organizations, faith-based and community-based partners. We continue to seek funding to help us participate most effectively in this urgent process.

From March to date (5/27/20), RPI has provided these services to its community.

- Connection with food pantries – 30
- Donation of packets of toiletries - 50
- Assistance with completing unemployment forms – 2
- Assistance with writing resume – 1
- Assistance with filling out COVID-19 immigrant financial assistance application – 4
- Connection with other providers for assistance – 5

The biggest change to our programming is to support a wider population of individuals and families, whose ability to earn a living safely has been disrupted by the pandemic. We will serve people who were already disproportionately affected by the uneven distribution of wealth, and who are now less able to compete for economic resources during the recovery. These include the victims or survivors of human trafficking, or domestic abuse, but also refugees, asylees, undocumented immigrants, and people who have been displaced by the pandemic. We shall be providing these services:

- Skills and tools for economic opportunity and economic stability
- Back-to-work support including help with writing resumes, job readiness, job search, and internship placements
- Assist with filling out applications and forms
- Connection to volunteer work for more hands-on and experience
- Re-training for a change in profession to computer software administration
- Connection to resources for food, rent and utilities assistance
- Referral to mental health, and other services as needed to enable the person to succeed

Our FREE classes are:

1. Computer Appreciation/Microsoft Application
2. Data Entry (new)
3. Basic Social Media - messaging, sales, and marketing (new)
4. Financial Literacy
5. Business Coaching

6. Job and Internship Search, and Volunteer placement

Contact us if you or anyone you know needs any of these services @: contact@restorationpi.org or 720.466.3979