

November 16, 2009

Dear Friend,

Lately, I have been reflecting about this tumultuous year, and how fortunate I am and have been. As a young man, I had the opportunity to pursue my dreams. The reason I serve as Chair of the Board of the San Francisco Conservation Corps (SFCC) is that I believe all young people, regardless of economics, should have the opportunity to pursue their dreams.

In the face of these challenging economic times, SFCC has been more determined than ever to meet its mission of creating opportunity and providing hope for the hard-working young adults who do so much for San Francisco. I have great news to share about what they have done!

Here are just a few highlights of the SFCC's accomplishments:

- More Corpsmembers earned High School Diplomas this year than at any time in our 26 year history! Our rate of High School Diploma attainment is now the highest of any local Conservation Corps in California.
- Corpsmembers greened and beautified 27 parks, community centers, recreation centers, senior centers and child development centers throughout San Francisco.
- Our Zero Waste project recycled over 280 tons of materials otherwise destined for landfills.
- Twenty nine Corpsmembers secured full time jobs, many of them in green businesses like solar installation, recycling, energy conservation, and in transportation, food service, home health and human services.

If only I could introduce you to all of our graduates who are now gainfully employed! Each of them has used their education and training to create new opportunities for themselves and to become economically self-sufficient young adults. But, there is only so much time and space in a letter, so let me introduce you to one of our graduates, Ms. Christian Lee.



Christian Lee (left) and her supervisor at Solar City, Tony Laglia

I recently met Ms. Lee at Solar City, a solar power company in Foster City. Christian was painfully shy when she came to SFCC. The supportive, caring staff and fellow Corpsmembers helped her find her voice. Within three months of joining SFCC, Christian gained the confidence to seek and earn a promotion due to her hard work and exceptional leadership skills.

Christian worked with our Career Counselor who identified a great opportunity for Christian to join Solar City as a Warehouse Associate. In just four months, Christian earned a promotion there as well. She now earns a good salary and benefits as a Senior Solar Energy Technician.

Christian told me, “SFCC taught me about being on time to work and challenged me to always do my best. The teachers and staff at SFCC prepared me to succeed at Solar City. They kept pushing me. At SFCC, I gained the trust of my supervisor and that gave me newfound confidence. After I was promoted to Crew Leader, people started to listen to me and respect me, and I realized I was ready for a new challenge. I bring that confidence to my job here at Solar City. ”

It’s amazing how young people succeed when they are given the opportunity!

Please join me in giving as generously as you possibly can this year to SFCC so more young people like Christian can get the support and opportunity they need to succeed. To make a donation or find out how you can get involved, please go to:

http://www.sfcc.org/support_corps.html

The Corpsmembers, staff, and Board join me in wishing you, your family, friends, and community a very healthy, happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Burton F. Boltuch

Burt Boltuch
Board Chair

PS - Key donors have committed to matching your donations for up to the first \$15,000 that is raised by December 15th. Please help us maximize this opportunity by donating generously today!