

Helping homeless and low-income women gain the skills and confidence they need to work their way out of the cycle of poverty and into self-sufficiency.

WOW WORKSHEET

SUMMER 2009

NEWS FROM WORK OPTIONS FOR WOMEN

CULINARY TRAINING BEGINS AT **CAFÉ** OPTIONS

Gayle was the perfect choice to be the first WOW student to begin training at Café Options. She had perfect attendance during her weeks in training. She was never late and always presents herself professionally in her WOW uniform. When Gayle first came to WOW she indicated interest in the program “to be able to get a steady job and income....I love to cook and bake and believe I am good at it!” Her confidence and excellent service has made her a valuable addition to the team. Chef Stephanie, commenting on Gayle’s performance, wrote, “Great job as usual! You have really become a strong leader as well as a consistent, reliable student.” After completing four weeks of training at Café Options, Gayle will work with WOW’s Job Placement Coordinator to find employment.

Since 1999 Work Options for Women has been conducting “hand’s on” job-training while operating the cafeteria in the Richard T. Castro Denver Human Services Center at 12th & Federal. WOW students prepare hundreds of meals each week for building employees and visitors under the instruction and guidance of WOW’s professional chef instructors. After eleven and a half years of service, WOW remains the only comprehensive culinary training program in the Denver area with a consistent track record of helping poor women attain marketable skills, take control of family and life challenges, and secure permanent employment.

On April 2, 2009, after considerable planning and preparation, WOW opened Cafe Options, a quick casual restaurant in downtown Denver. This expansion was undertaken to increase WOW’s capacity to fulfill its mission to “combat poverty

and homelessness by providing opportunities for poor and marginalized women to gain the confidence and skills they need to become gainfully and permanently employed in the food service industry.” In July 2009, Gayle was moved to Café Options to complete her training. This step represents a significant moment in the growth of the organization as WOW changes from a one facility operation to two, and sets the stage for WOW to train a great number of students.

Work Options for Women is grateful to all who made it possible for Café Options to open and for Gayle and all the other WOW students to work towards changing their lives through training and employment as food service professionals. Café Options is located at 1650 Curtis Street in the U.S. Bank Tower. To see the Café Options menu, visit www.cafeoptions.com.

WISHING OUR NEWEST GRADUATES SUCCESS & CONGRATULATIONS!

These WOW students completed their training this year and are now employed:

Rhonda	Sodexo DU
Brenda	Sodexo DU
Iris	Deleware North at DIA
Eunice	Café Options
Lois	Denver Public Schools
Angela	Project Angel Heart
Eugene	A-1 Produce
Maria	Clermont Park
Erica	Tennyson Center
Mary	Noodles and Company
Patricia	Swedish Hospital
Vanessa	Mt. St. Vincent Home

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- 🍴 Visit Café Options for breakfast or lunch between 6:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday – Friday.
- 🍴 Tell your friends and bring a group to Café Options (for more information go to www.cafeoptions.com).
- 🍴 Donate to WOW by going to www.workoptions.org and clicking on the “Donate Now” button which will take you to the Giving First website to make a fee-free contribution to WOW by credit card.
- 🍴 Contact WOW to learn what current needs we have for program supplies such as Sharpies and small notebooks, or furniture for students moving from homelessness to a permanent residence.

For additional information, please contact Dan Mondragon, at dan.mondragon@denvergov.org or call 720-944-1920.
