

# MICHAEL BARLOW CENTER

## A Program of St. Leonard's Ministries Providing Education, Training and Employment Services



Update: July to December, 2007

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### RICKY: A SUCCESS STORY

Ricky, who lives in the community, heard about the Barlow Center and came to an orientation session in April 2007. He was seeking assistance with employment and identifying a career path. He had previously been incarcerated, and like so many others, had trouble getting a steady job. During orientation, we learned Ricky enjoyed working with his hands. He enrolled in the eight-week Building Maintenance Training and graduated on June 23, 2007.



He proved to be a great student with an authentic interest in carpentry. With a recommendation from the Barlow Center to David Pepper, Chairman and CEO, Pepper Construction Group sponsored Ricky as a candidate for the Carpenters' Apprenticeship Program. He was accepted for the nine-week Pre-Apprentice Program of the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters.

Ricky successfully completed the training and became a first-year union apprentice. This is a four-year apprenticeship, with a first-year apprentice being paid 40% of a journeyman's wage plus the full benefits package of a union carpenter. Ricky is currently employed with a construction company near O'Hare airport. Ricky loves his work and says he is very appreciative for the assistance from the Barlow Center with getting him started on this career path.

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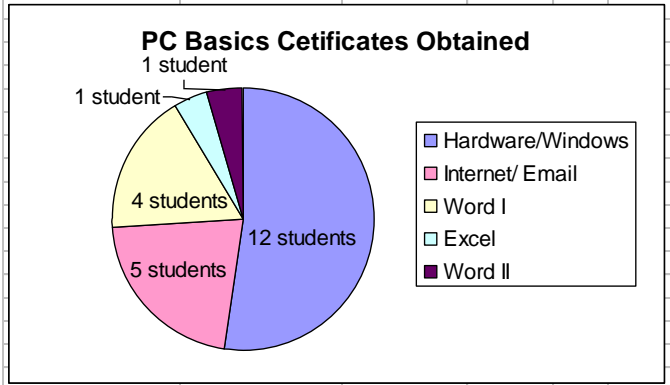
*Between September and June of the past year, 48 men and women graduated from the Adult High School. A July survey found that 25% had enrolled in college classes.*

**FOOD SERVICE CLASS INVITED TO DISPLAY THEIR SKILLS**

The Food Service Class received two invitations to prepare food for events in the community. The Mayor of Maywood involved several organizations in a job fair for the formerly incarcerated on October 10th. Our Food Service class was invited to prepare and serve a lunch for the employers and staff members at the job fair. The class purchased all the items, prepared the food, and served an excellent lunch to 70 people. Then on November 7th Grace House held its annual fund raiser, which was a luncheon for 170 people at the Episcopal Church Center at 65 E. Huron. The class was asked to prepare and serve the desserts for this event. They did an outstanding job with a variety of very tasty cakes, cookies and pastries. These two events were in addition to the usual practicum requirement of preparing meals for St. Leonard's House.



**COMPUTER SKILL ADVANCEMENT**



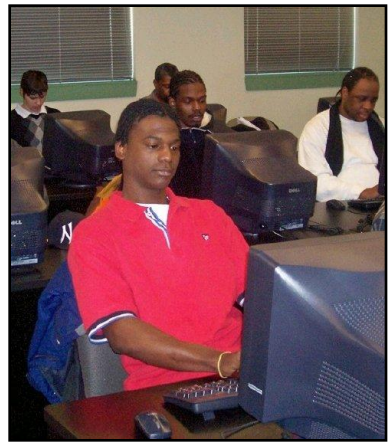
**WAGE COMPARISONS**

IL Minimum Wage compared to MBC Job Seeker Wages

**\$7.50**

**\$8.52**

Employer	Job Titles	Wages	Total
Solo Cup	Warehouse	7.50	1
Dominick's	Clerk	7.50	1
Allied Waste Mgt	Recyclist	7.50	3
Veterans Messenger Service	Driver	12.00	1
Tyson's Food	Material Handler	9.40	1
Church of Our Savior	Sexton	10.00	1
Wine & Dine	Maintenance/ Crew Mgrs	7.50	4
KFC	Cook	7.50	1
A Transport Co.	Driver	7.50	2
Salvation Army	Bell Ringers	7.50	6
Construction Company	Carpenter	15.11	1
Superior Ambulance	EMT	14.50	1



Students collectively obtained a total of twenty-three certificates in our computer training classes.

**INDUSTRIES THAT EMPLOY MBC JOB SEEKERS**

