



The Storehouse
COMMUNITY CENTER

Contact:

Elizabeth Lenart
214.394.7457
elenart2013@gmail.com

The Storehouse Community Center

1401 Mira Vista Boulevard
Plano, TX 75093
469.385.1813
info@thestorehouseecc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Storehouse Community Center Grows Job Training Opportunities With North Texas Food Bank Grant



Developing Key Skills: Ruth Rodriguez, one of 15 participants in the Work Well Certificate pilot, answering questions during a mock interview.

PLANO, TEXAS - December 23, 2024 - The Storehouse Community Center (TSCC) is proud to announce the launch of its Work Well Certificate, a transformative job training initiative made possible by a \$61,498 grant from the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB). Awarded earlier this fiscal year through NTFB's Hope for Tomorrow grant program, this funding has been instrumental in expanding TSCC's Academy and job partnership programs.

"Our relationship with the North Texas Food Bank provides millions of pounds of food to neighbors in the community each year," said Candace Winslow, CEO of The Storehouse Community Center. "Many of our neighbors come to The Storehouse for the first time to receive food, made possible by the NTFB's longstanding partnership since 2009. This is their starting line - their entry point to our

programs - leading them to The Academy and to Work Well. As we share information about our additional programs and discover their needs, our vision is to create relationships that ultimately lead to living-wage employment and transformation."

The Academy, TSCC's signature adult educational and job training initiative, has seen record enrollment each semester. With NTFB's support this year, TSCC has expanded its team by welcoming Maripily Gonzalez, who has already made significant strides in growing the reach and impact of job partnerships and training through the Work Well course.

In October 2024, TSCC held a four-week Work Well Certificate pilot with 15 neighbors participating. The pilot culminated in participants undergoing mock job interviews with professional volunteers from Lennox's HOLA Hispanic/Latin Employee Resource Group and Lux Ice. Reflecting on her experience, participant Ruth Rodriguez said, "Through my Work Well training, I gained the tools and confidence I needed to advance my career and changed my outlook on what's possible for me and my family. I am grateful for the Work Well team and volunteers for being a part of my transformative journey toward greater career opportunities."



Launching Work Well: Maripily Gonzalez, Community Social Worker, giving a presentation at the Work Well Certificate pilot on October 11, 2024. She spent most of 2024 developing the curriculum for Work Well and cultivating relationships with The Storehouse's job partners. Prior to joining The Storehouse, Gonzalez worked in human resources for John Deere in Torreon, Mexico. Gonzalez has a degree in psychology from Universidad del Valle de México.

The primary objective of Work Well is to connect neighbors with trusted companies offering stable, living-wage employment opportunities. By providing mentorship and skills training, TSCC helps participants lay the foundation for long-term success and economic stability. TSCC plans to host six Work Well Certificate cohorts in 2025, starting in January.

Thanks to NTFB's generous support, TSCC's vision extends beyond providing basic needs. The organization aims to foster a supportive environment that empowers neighbors to transform their lives and the lives of their families, offering hope and opportunity for a brighter future.

For more information about Work Well or other TSCC programs, please visit www.thestorehouseecc.org or contact Maripily Gonzalez at mgonzalez@thestorehouseecc.org



A Successful Pilot: Maripily Gonzalez (far left) with the neighbors who participated in the Work Well Certificate pilot. Under Gonzalez's leadership, The Storehouse has six cohorts planned for 2025, starting in January.

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The Storehouse Community Center (formerly The Storehouse of Collin County) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the community through food, clothing, resources, education, and employment support. By creating strong partnerships and offering transformational programs, TSCC works to address the root causes of food insecurity and empower neighbors to achieve self-sufficiency. During its previous fiscal year, The Storehouse served 180,000 unduplicated neighbors with the support of more than 2,000 volunteers. Visit www.thestorehouseecc.org. The Storehouse EIN: 27-1883333

North Texas Food Bank [Insert Boiler Plate]