

CityLinkConnections

Achieving New Goals



In the summer of 2016, Autumn was in need of a reliable car. A friend told her to check out CityLink, and Autumn quickly got engaged with SmartMoney and ChangingGears.

Autumn really enjoyed working one-on-one with her financial counselor to improve her budget. She also loved Sweat Equity, which allowed her to go into the garage and work on different cars.

Autumn says that the ChangingGears staff and volunteers kept her engaged throughout the entire process. Last month, she made her final payment and received the title to her new car!

“ChangingGears was a great experience that helped me achieve one of my life goals,” she says.

Autumn’s piece of advice for anyone going through ChangingGears is not to get discouraged. She says that all the classes and steps have a purpose and helped her a lot along the way.

Now that her car is paid off, Autumn has plans to continue with SmartMoney and get a house through Habitat for Humanity.

In need of reliable transportation? Talk to your Service Coordinator about ChangingGears!

Need Tax Help?



The United Way is helping families with free tax filing services. Any household earning **\$66,000** or less can file state and federal taxes for free!

Families can file in-person through certified volunteers at walk-in or appointment sites. Families can also file

online at **MyFreeTaxes.com** - a free, secure, and mobile website sponsored by United Way and powered by H&R Block.

Stop by the Welcome Center or Client Services to get more information and to find a location near you!

Celebrate With Us!



You’re invited to help us in celebrate some of the awesome milestones that clients have reached! We will also be celebrating some volunteers who are making a big impact on our mission.

Join us in the café on **Thursday, February 22nd** from **6:30pm - 8pm**. All are invited to attend this exciting event!

Save the Date

Per Scholas QA Graduation	2/2
Center Closed: Offsite Staff Training	2/19
Celebration Event	2/22

Know a friend or family member who should check out CityLink?

Encourage them to call 357.2000 Ext. 0 or stop in to schedule a **CityLink Center Info Session** today!

Info Sessions are held:

Mondays: 10a-12:30p Wednesdays: 6-8:30p

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SmartTax Workshop

Understanding the ins and outs of filing your taxes.

SmartMoney Community Services will be offering SmartTax Workshops for CityLink Clients on:

Tuesday, Feb. 13th | 10am-12pm
Wednesday, Feb. 21st | 4pm-6pm
Wednesday, March 21st | 4pm-6pm
Thursday, April 12th | 10am-12pm

To participate, you must have a valid cell phone and/or email address, and you must be making no more than \$66,000 per year.

Visit the Welcome Center for more information and to sign up for a class!

Jump Starting 2018



These three are starting 2018 off strong! They were the first clients to graduate Cincinnati Works' Jump Start class this year, and are one step further to achieving a full-time career.

Now that the class is over, these graduates will be able to work one-on-one with a job coach during their search for full-time employment. Great job on all of your success! We're so excited to see what the future holds for you!

In search of full-time employment? Talk to your Service Coordinator about Cincinnati Works and Jump Start!

What a Guy!



After graduating from Per Scholas in August, Guy received a job with SABIS. His job is to work with software that's synced with school testing websites. He also makes sure that the testing is ethical.

Guy feels blessed to have his job because he not only gets to put his IT skills to great use, but he also feels like he's making a difference in students' lives. He works to engage students and help them overcome any struggles they may have.

Before coming to CityLink, Guy was working in security. In early 2017, during a break in his employment, he saw a clip about Per Scholas on WCPO. He immediately called and got himself enrolled in the program.

"CityLink and Per Scholas gave me a new outlook on life," he says. "We can't break barriers if we're in the same old ways."

The atmosphere of CityLink is Guy's favorite part about being a client. He loves feeling welcomed by all the staff and volunteers whenever he comes into the building.

Guy continues to engage with CityLink through SmartMoney and ChangingGears. He is currently engaging in Sweat Equity, the last step of ChangingGears, and is on track to receive the keys to his car soon! He also plans to return to Per Scholas in the summer to obtain his Network+ certificate. His end goal, he says, is to have a degree in IT and attend law school.

Interested in a career in IT? Talk to your Service Coordinator about Per Scholas!