



# CARITAS Works

We provide intensive , innovative and effective training to individuals with major barriers to employment, empowering them to overcome their circumstances and forge pathways to lasting success.

## The Challenge



The rate of unemployment for individuals formerly incarcerated is **more than 27%, higher** than what was experienced during the Great Depression. - National Reentry Resource Center



**1 in 3 Americans** have a criminal record, often for minor crimes. - The Sentencing Project



Every year, **11.4 million Americans** cycle through our jail systems, where they receive fragmented and uncoordinated care that results in poor outcomes and costs taxpayers more than **\$20 billion**. **68%** of these individuals have a substance use issue. - Arnold Ventures

## The Solution

The CARITAS Works workforce development program consists of three components. Each one guides participants to attain sustainable economic security and become productive, self-sustaining, joyful, and service-driven members of their community.

**Works** is a five-week, eight-hour a day (160+ hours), job-readiness and life skills development program. The program encompasses: character building, career development and life skills classes, including 24 hrs. of computer classes.

**Job Club** provides Works graduates access to the computer lab, employment resources, and personal assistance with job applications and resources to support employment opportunities. Temporary employment with a small stipend through CARITAS is available while they are an active member of Job Club.

**AfterWorks** offers two years of job placement support and follow-up: access to the computer lab, a career development specialist, job resources, and classes to support graduate's current employment, and opportunities to help them develop their careers.





**31** days  
Average time to find employment

## Meet David

In the CARITAS Works classroom, David found himself helping other students learn computer skills and more.

“What I discovered was that I really love helping people and by helping them, I was helping myself,” he said. “I wouldn’t have known that if it weren’t for CARITAS.”

After graduating, David pursued and earned his certification as a Peer Recovery Specialist and became an AmeriCorps service member, which allowed him to join the CARITAS Works staff.

David has used the AmeriCorps tuition reimbursement program to finish his Bachelor’s degree. David graduated from Shenandoah University with a Bachelor’s Degree.

“I just want to keep giving back,” David says.

## To Our Employers

At CARITAS, we focus on lasting relationships with community employers and provide companies with one point of contact to streamline communications. We also provide two years of AfterWorks for all of our clients, maintaining the connectivity necessary for long-term success. Our staff has extensive experience in job placement, workforce and leadership development, and program design, development and implementation.

For information about the program, please call the Works Program Manager at (804) 612-1752.

“It reignited and reawakened my awareness of my own personal value.”

-Sur, CARITAS Works Client



## From An Employer

“There is an obvious difference in attitude and willingness to take instructions from the employees we hire from the CARITAS Works program. The positions these men are hired for are not taken for granted by these men; they show they are grateful on a daily basis. They are on time, prepared to work later, and as a whole, work harder than their counterparts. We have never regretted the relationship that has developed between ourselves and CARITAS graduates.”

-Thomas Rodwell,  
**Keany Produce, Works Employer**

