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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WISCONSIN FAST FORWARD GRANT TO HELP CATHOLIC MULTICULTURAL CENTER JOB TRAINING
ENTERPRISE EXPAND

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The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) recently awarded the Catholic Multicultural Center (CMC) one of three grants offered to businesses statewide, so the CMC may train and place 35 people facing barriers to employment over the next two years. This Wisconsin Fast Forward Grant of \$50,000 will allow the CMC to expand its Culinary Creations Catering job training enterprise to provide job training and employment support to even more individuals while helping respond to a growing need for qualified food service workers in the greater Madison area.

“People are looking for a change to advance their lives and this grant allows us to formally continue and improve the resources we've been offering for years,” said Julia Slotnick, CMC Employment and Training Coordinator. “This funding will provide a pathway to engage with employers, prioritize skill development, and support the vulnerable in their job search.”

Culinary Creations offers individuals struggling to find work a 16-week training starting with basic employment skills and ending with paid, hands-on training through working for the catering social enterprise. In addition to allowing the CMC to offer a strengthened training curriculum, this grant will allow the CMC to provide trainees a direct referral to a job interview with a food service employer partner when they graduate. Now, trainees will not only have the foundation of relevant skills and work experience in the field they need to succeed at a job in the food service industry, but they will also have support in taking the first steps to starting a new job in their field after their training. After CMC refers a trainee to an employer partner, they offer 90 days of post-placement support to ensure that both the trainee’s and employer partner’s needs are being met.

“I’m motivated and a quick learner. I hope to learn to work in a commercial kitchen. Anything is possible if you put your mind to it,” said one trainee currently participating in the CMC’s job training enterprise.

The Wisconsin Fast Forward program partners with Wisconsin employers to implement customized training programs that provide workers with practical skills. In total, \$247,614 in WFF program grants were awarded to three organizations. The grants will serve 13 Wisconsin

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businesses and fund the training of 63 workers to provide them the skills that employers demand in today's 21st century economy.

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For a full list of grant recipients, please visit:

https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/2018/181127_fastforward_grant_recipients.htm

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