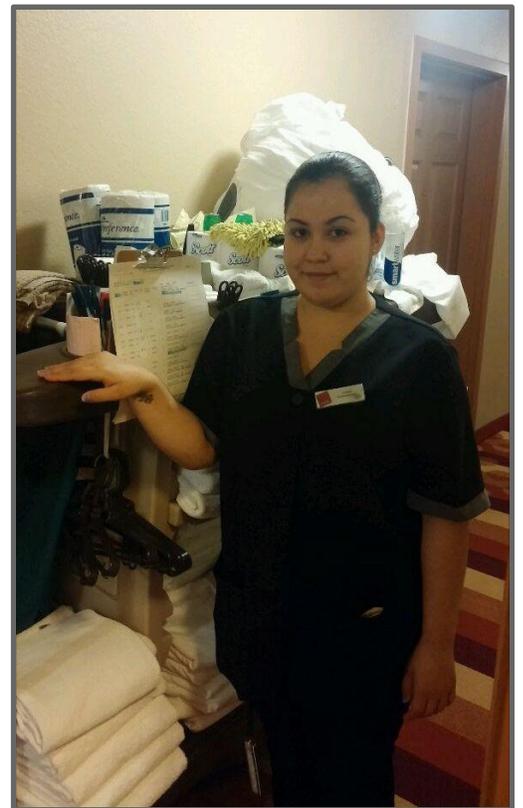


FALL 2014

Celina Hernandez really enjoys her job and is looking forward to moving up in Marriott.



CELINA HERNANDEZ: THINKING AHEAD

Celina Hernandez joined the Bridges program at the beginning of the 2014 program year. She was enrolled by Employer Representative Jessica Serber and enthusiastically began her job search. Celina and Jessica worked hard to create a resume and prepare Celina for anything she might encounter during her job search.

In November 2014, Celina was hired at Ross as a Retail Associate. In this position Celina was making minimum wage and being scheduled only a couple of days per week. While Celina was excited that she had been able to obtain employment, she needed to prepare for her future. Celina was pregnant with her first child and knew she needed something more stable.

Shortly after Celina began to work at Ross, ER Jessica left Bridges to pursue her education and thus, Contracts Manager Ana Sandoval (previously an ER) took

over while a new ER came on board. During this time, Ana and Celina worked on preparing her for maternity leave. Ana helped her create a budget to give her a better understanding of the type of job she would need to focus on when she returned from maternity leave. Celina now knew she needed more hours and higher pay in order to provide for her child.

Ana invited Celina to attend a job shadow event at the JW/ Ritz Carlton at LA Live where she would be exposed to a variety of opportunities in the hospitality industry. Celina was also introduced to her new ER Cynthia Gomez-Ramirez at the event. During this visit, Celina expressed to Ana and Cynthia that she would be interested in pursuing a career with Marriott especially in housekeeping after returning from maternity leave.

Celina worked at Ross until she left for maternity leave. Celina went right back to work six weeks

later. During this time, Cynthia and Celina worked really hard on applying to multiple Marriott properties in order to find the perfect match for Celina.

ER Cynthia was able to make contact with manager Dilma at the Marriott TownPlace Suites in Manhattan Beach and obtain an interview for Celina. After multiple interviews with several managers they realized she was a great candidate and offered her employment as a full-time Housekeeper.

Celina has been continuously employed for one year since enrolling in the Bridges program. She has been at Marriott for five months and is one of their fastest housekeepers. Celina has not only proven to be a great employee but is also responsible parent. She has since been able to move out of her parents' home and into her own apartment.

**Congratulations Celina and
Welcome Baby Laila!**



Top: Henry Aguiluz on the cover of the Ralph's Newsletter.

Bottom: Luis Salas on a typical day of work at a runner at El Super.

Where are they now?

The following participants are alumni of the Bridges program and continue to succeed on the job:

- Henry Aguiluz was hired at Ralph's in February 2013 as a courtesy clerk. Henry continues to work at the same location and has become the ideal employee. He even earned the cover of the Ralph's newsletter for his excellent customer service.
- Siblings, Andres and Adrian Elizondo, were hired at two different Ralph's in early 2013 as courtesy clerks. Adrian has since been promoted to the meat department. They both continue to work at the same locations and are also attending Cerritos College.
- Anabel Rios was hired at Q'doba Mexican Grill in March 2010 as a crew member. With guidance from her ER, Anabel continues to work for the company and is now in a supervisory role.
- Nikalis Porter was hired at the Torrance Marriott in March 2010 as a Barista for Starbucks. He has since transferred to the JW Marriott LA Live as a banquet attendant. Nikalis has recently married and is still doing great at Marriott.
- Luis Salas was hired by El Super in December of 2012 as a runner. As of today, Luis continues to work at El Super and is on his way to celebrating his two year anniversary by the end of this year.
- Elizabeth Mansaray was hired at AMC Theatres and just celebrated her one year anniversary in October. Elizabeth is also attending Santa Monica college and has moved out on her own and living independently.

Have you visited our website?

Make sure to check out our website www.bridgestowork.org for more information about the Bridges program and to view our previous newsletters. Don't forget to watch our new video story featuring student Omar Sandoval.



Now Enrolling for Program Year 2015

Bridges is now enrolling for the 2015 program year. Please call our office for more details on eligibility criteria at (213) 347-0042 or visit our website at www.bridgestowork.org. Our staff would be more than happy to assist you.

Program Director- Therese Lyons
 Grants/Contract Manager- Ana Sandoval
 Administrative Assistant- Mildred Guerra
 Job Retention Specialist (Compton)- Sharon Toledo
 Employer Representatives:
 Caroline Chavarria- South Bay Region
 Cynthia Gomez-Ramirez- South Bay Region
 Nancy Chamberlain (Senior) - Greater Los Angeles Region
 Kevin Weinress- Greater Los Angeles Region
 Noe Valenzuela- Van Nuys Region
 Fausto Mendez- Van Nuys Region
 Darin Garcia- Compton Region
 Brianna Garner- Lynwood Region