



The Right Click

Austin Free-Net News & Information

July 2012

Dear Friend,



This month brings with it history and encouragement via the celebration of our Nation's Independence this 4th of July. I hope you fired up the grill and enjoyed your holiday!

I also hope that you will make a charitable mid-year donation to Austin Free-Net. With your financial gift our city's vulnerable adult population will continue to have free basic computer education and access to our computer labs. After all, education is one of the greatest parts of independence a society can offer.

Many of our in-need adults yearn for the freedom to navigate the Internet to look for and apply for work free of charge so they may gain financial independence. They strive to attain proper access to housing, medical and transportation information websites to ensure their basic needs are independently met. They attend free classes in English and Spanish to become computer literate and achieve social independence.

They visit our centers to gain the power to overcome the barriers they face in their varied lives. Read the story below of Justin Fruge and Ira Spencer who both came to Austin Free-Net with different barriers yet now know the joy of true independence.

Help us continue to provide this educational independence for free by [donating today](#).

Help Someone



[Donate Today](#)

Be Social



YouTube

Google+

Be Needed

Your donation will provide AFN and our students:

- \$20 = 20 sets of ear buds for online learning
- \$50 = 10 flash drives for resume and document storage
- \$250 = 1 computer system via our Adopt-A-Computer program
- \$600 = support for our tablet/iPad Mobile Lab
- \$5000 = support for an entire computer lab for one
- year

I KNOW you want to help AFN celebrate Austin's digital independence! [Donate](#) today.

Sincerely,

Juanita Budd
Executive Director



Remember to always run a spell check on your resume, reference and cover letters before sending them to prospective employers.

Using Their Skills to Find Independence: Meet Ira and Justin

The free open computer labs Austin Free-Net are visited by clients in need of various computer skills. What we've been seeing more and more, as the economy evolves, is the need to learn how to build a resume, search and apply for work and ultimately communicate with potential employers. This was exactly the case for two AFN clients, Ira Spencer and Justin Fruge.



Ira Spencer was eager to begin his life and get back into the workforce after serving 10 years in federal prison. He had a basic resume and had been applying for jobs, but hadn't



Did You Know?

Austin Free-Net hosts free Spanish language basic computer classes at The DeWitty Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning at 1:30 p.m.?



Visit one of Austin Free-Net's open computer lab locations to beat the Austin Heat this summer.

Tips for Staying Cool This Summer

- Pay attention to your hydration status, and be sure to drink plenty of fluids.

received even one call back. Looking for help, he came into AFN and met Program Specialist, Meredith Sisnett. Meredith helped him develop a new resume that focused on his strengths and elaborated on his previous job responsibilities.

He wanted employers to consider all the things he had done his whole life, rather than focusing on one part – his prison time. Meredith, being trained specifically to assist our clients who have been incarcerated for any length of time, worked directly with Ira to ensure his resume was filled with positives and strengths and true skill sets. After one week of applying for jobs with his new resume, Ira received **three** different job offers.

“Meredith’s help and the resume she helped me make really made a difference,” Ira said. “She helped me to realize and essentially verbalize all the things I had been doing at jobs.”

In control of his destiny, Ira now gets to pick how he’ll start his journey back into the workforce. Way to go Ira! We’re proud of you and your hard work.

Justin Fruge’s entry into Austin’s workforce is different from Ira’s, but the struggle is all too familiar to us all.

Working in retail sales and management in Philadelphia for the past 25 years, Justin moved to Austin to return to southern roots. But with no Texas-specific connections, he found it difficult to secure work. He knew he had to change his approach so he came in to AFN and worked with Meredith to polish his resume.



Within a week of applying for jobs with his new resume, he received his first call back and happily accepted a job with Family Dollar as a cashier. Someone with so many years in retail management may see a cashier position as a setback, but not Justin!

“I see cashiering as the first door and then I can move up to management,” he said with obvious pride and excitement.

And, his positivity does not stop there! Justin has new goals of attaining his Master’s degree and will continue to attend AFN’s computer training classes to keep up his skills. “Management positions are not what they used to be,” he said. “I know I’ll need those skills to reach management.” Keep it up, Justin and we’re here for you!

Ira, Justin and the rest of the AFN clients who utilize the free computer resources and professional training know that the job market is tough. They all are working diligently to improve their resumes, showcase their skill sets and join Austin’s workforce. They just need a

- Try to stay in relatively cool areas, even when outside.
- Many public places such as libraries, shopping malls and movie theatres are air conditioned.
- Never leave children or pets unattended in a car parked in the sun.
- Use a fan, if available.
- Eat well-balanced, light and regular meals.
- Wear loose-fitting, lightweight and light-colored clothing.
- Cover windows that receive a significant amount of sun with drapes or shades to help keep your house cool.
- Cool beverages are good for cooling down the body

*Thank
you*

chance - - AFN gives them the tools to take those chances free of charge. Help clients like Ira and Justin learn to use the computer to conquer their pasts and secure their futures. [Donate](#) today!

Austin Free-Net | 2209 Rosewood Ave, Austin, TX 78702 | 512.236.8225 | www.austinfoo.net

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