

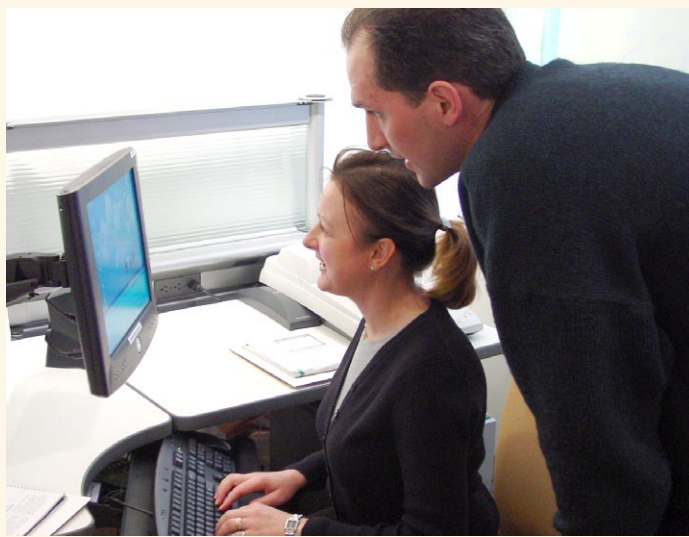


UBS GIFT TO F·E·G·S HELPS BROOKLYN RESIDENTS ACHIEVE JOB SUCCESS

New Technologies Available at Brooklyn Resource Center

A generous gift from UBS, one of the world's leading financial firms, to F·E·G·S Health and Human Services System, will help clients at the F·E·G·S Resource Center in Brooklyn improve their literacy, computer, and job search skills in order to gain a competitive edge in the workplace.

C. William Weisser, New York Branch Manager, UBS, stated, "We are most pleased that our UBS office was able to make a donation to F·E·G·S and we know that the training programs that it helped to support will pay dividends to the community for many years to come."



ESOL (English-for-Speakers-of-Other Languages) software helps Resource Center participants increase their language proficiency and marketability for today's competitive business environment.

Alfred P. Miller, CEO of F·E·G·S, said that F·E·G·S was grateful for the support. "This gift from UBS truly represents the kind of synergy with business and industry that has helped F·E·G·S grow, expand our programs, and help more people each year. We continually seek new ways to meet the ever-changing needs of our community, business, and society."

"F·E·G·S utilizes assistance from many government grants in order to bring to Brooklyn the vast array of services we are able to provide," said Miller. "But the additional private assistance we receive, such as the grant from UBS, helps us fill in the gaps, and assures that vital services that might not otherwise be available to people in need, will indeed be there."

Virginia G. Cruickshank, Senior Vice President for F·E·G·S Employment, Training, Education and Youth Services, added, "Our Brooklyn center offers the latest technologies in computer desktop programs: state-of-the-art hardware, high tech software, and educational software. Thanks to this assistance from UBS, we will be able to keep the center current with emerging changes in technology."

About 400 people each month use the computer center, according to the Jennifer Volpi, who coordinates the center. "This part of Brooklyn has a large Russian-speaking émigré population," she said, "and the computer center has become a valuable tool in helping so many of them gain the literacy and computer skills they need to find good jobs."

"Most people come initially to learn English, and we have ESOL (English-for-Speakers-of-Other Languages) software packages that help them develop the conversational language skills they need to go on job interviews," said Volpi.



Some 400 people use the latest technologies, offered at the Brooklyn Resource Center, to learn new skills to gain a competitive edge for the world of business.

The Resource Center also has bi-lingual instructors, speaking Russian and English, who offer instruction and support, and help consumers navigate the many programs offered.

Participants can attend workshops that teach them how to use the internet and various software programs such as Microsoft Word and Excel, and how to access job search data banks. "We also have resume writing software," said Volpi. "Many of those who come to us never had to create a resume before, and we help them develop the kinds of resumes that generate job interviews."

The F·E·G·S Resource Center offers many other services in addition to the computer center. Language programs help participants improve their reading, speaking, and writing skills in English. Citizenship classes help émigrés learn about American life and prepare them for their citizenship interviews. A counseling center offers outpatient services to individuals and families dealing with problems such as depression, anxiety, marital discord, family conflicts, and substance abuse. An information and referral service directs individuals to other kinds of social services, entitlements and benefits, healthcare, emergency services, and legal assistance.

F·E·G·S programs reach more than 80,000 individuals each year – more than 9,000 each day – at some 350 locations through the New York City area. Individuals with mental illness, developmental and physical disabilities, new immigrants, those who are unemployed, families, the frail elderly, youth, and others are helped to achieve their highest levels of self-sufficiency and independence.

For more information on the F·E·G·S Resource Center, call (718) 336-2836. ■

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