



Immigrant Services

Meet the People We Help...

Problem

In their native Bosnia, Svetlana and Josef had built a successful family medicine practice. When they won a visa lottery to come to the United States, they hoped to find jobs in the medical profession, even if they could not work as physicians. Unfortunately, their limited English skills hindered their ability to find work. Because they needed to generate some income right away, they settled for housekeeping jobs at a local grocery store. They still held out hope for securing employment that would take advantage of their training.

Solution

The couple learned of the Career Development Center's immigrant services and came in for help. Their multilingual counselor helped them prepare resumes that showcased the skills they would bring to a hospital. They showed great determination, devoting 20 hours a week to their job search and attending ESL classes on three days each week, in addition to working full-time at the grocery store. Their efforts paid off. A hospital recruiter, impressed by their dedication, gave them an opportunity to interview for nurse aide positions. Svetlana and Josef both received job offers.

Outcome

Svetlana and Josef quickly proved to be model employees. They continued to work hard to improve their English, and their supervisors noticed. The couple was placed in a "fast track" program that the hospital had designed to promote recent immigrants with a medical background. The hospital also gave them the opportunity to work individually with an ESL tutor. They have continued to earn promotions, and now they are making enough money that they have started saving to buy a house.