

To Whom It May Concern

Before you hit
Craigslit to fill that
next open position,
look to community
agencies offering
disadvantaged people
a second chance.

BY IRENE AGUILAR
IE Contributor

*Irene Aguilar works for the Center For
Career Alternatives (CCA).
www.cca-wa.org.*

In this special partnership with the Center for Career Alternatives (CCA) and in support of community people at all levels of the socio-economic spectrum, we will periodically profile an individual, who is a part of the CCA program, and seeking employment opportunities.

Nga Nguyen arrived from Vietnam three years ago, working as a registered nurse for the Children's Hospital for seventeen years, in the burn unit where she cared for children from newborn to 15 years of age. Nguyen dedicated most of her adult life caring for children treated there for prolonged periods of time. After meeting her American soon-to-be husband when he visited Vietnam, they married in 2003. She says it was difficult



Nga Nguyen.

living in Vietnam being married to someone who was not of the same culture. The couple lived in Vietnam for three years before moving to California, agreeing that they could have a better life in the United States where their two cultures would be "more accepted." But being accepted as a health care worker in the US with skills acquired in Vietnam requires new and updated training. Nguyen studied in the American Healthcare System at Trinity Occupational Training in California.

After completing the program, the couple moved to Washington state in order to live closer to her husband's family. Unfortunately, doctors recently diagnosed her husband with colon cancer and heart problems. Now as the primary caregiver and relying on social security, Nguyen has begun studying to be a phlebotomist so she can be certified to work in the medical profession.

Nguyen discovered the Center for Career Alternatives (CCA), which provides education, employment, training and career development services to a culturally diverse population of disadvantaged youth and adults. CCA's programs lead to individual self-sufficiency and self-worth for clients.

Nguyen made an appointment to meet with Irene Aguilar, a CCA case manager. She now comes in regularly to work with Aguilar conducting her job search. Nguyen is studying but still wants to work and has filled out countless applications. Although under a lot of pressure, she is optimistic that she will find something if she persists.

Nguyen's skills expand beyond a medical background. She has very good administrative and computer skills, including Microsoft Word, Internet Explorer, data entry, e-mail, answering phones, new client intake, scheduling appointments and taking messages.

If you would like to reach Nga Nguyen for a job interview, please call Irene Aguilar at the Center For Career Alternatives (CCA) Kent office at (253) 639-1162.