



We Turn Tax Burdens into Tax Payers!

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WFF Graduates Where are they now?

By Rachel Roberts

In the last nineteen years, Food on Foot has helped many of the homeless in Hollywood. Sonia M., a WFF Graduate from 2007, is one of those tenacious and hard-working individuals who used the Work for Food program to truly better her circumstances. Her story helps us understand the lasting impact that the Work for Food program has on those who participate in it. She first became homeless in 2002 after she was laid off from her job at 24 Hour Fitness. She received unemployment for six months before she was asked to vacate her



WFF Graduate—Sonia M.

apartment. She bounced around in different shelters and stayed with friends for nearly four years before finding Food on Foot. She states that she was desperate and extremely uncomfortable with the many unknowns of life without a home. Sonia said, "I don't mind cleaning the streets but I don't want to be on the streets."

She describes her success in life after Food on Foot as being a combination of things. Sonia is driven by the comfort of having her own home as well as having a powerful will to survive. "Food on Foot helped me by finding me a job at Whole Foods and it helped me to know that someone was there for me; it motivated me to keep going," she said. Jay taught her many things while she was in the Work for Food (WFF) program. "He taught me the importance of patience and maintaining

consistency in life. He also taught me to be confident in my abilities and in myself," she reflected. These are the things that she feels have kept her employed and housed for the last eight years.

On October 12, 2015, Sonia will celebrate her ninth year as an employee at Whole Foods. Throughout her years employed there, she has been given many opportunities for growth. Sonia said that they even helped her become certified as a fork lift operator! "There are not many women fork lift operators and I like to think of myself as a pioneer for women in this field," she boast-

ed. Her love for her work comes from a foundation of working with a company that she says values their employees and provides great benefits. "I love this company and everything that they do and stand for," she praised. Sonia continues to receive "Team Member of the Month" as well as annual raises.

She carries with her so many lessons from her time as a Gray Shirt with Food on Foot. She even pays it forward in little ways here and there when she can. "Even if my success in Food on Foot somehow pays it forward to other future graduates of the program, then I feel like I'm really helping others!" Sonia leaves some advice for anyone who might follow in her 'Food on Footsteps' saying, "You have to do the work if you want to get off the streets, and Food on Foot is always the better option."

Welcome Aboard to Our Newest \$98 Club Members!

APRIL

George Arrington
Ken deBie
Ron Guzman
Rebecca Hartman Edwards
John Ridley
Tim Smith

MAY

Chris Barry
Jill Brody Sundahl
Timothy Stithem

www.foodonfoot.org



**On Sunday, May 3rd,
we celebrated our
1000th Week
of consecutive
service to the
homeless & poor!**

**And it's not too
late to still make
a donation!**

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