

## FORGING AHEAD INTO 2020!

How exciting the last few months have been for the Columbia Future Forge! We continue to grow and adapt our programs to meet the needs of the young adults that are coming through our doors as we prepare them to be “**Life ready. Job ready.**” For the 2019-2020 year this has meant offering different training times and days and adjusting our training format to meet the specific needs of various groups of apprentices. We are currently running 5 tracks of skills trainings: 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, Utmost Athletics group, and the Clark College Baseball group.

- **1.0** Apprentices (students) who join the program for the first time are paired with a Blacksmith (adult mentor) and attend the four basic trainings: Personality Profile & Life Gifts, Goal Setting, Professionalism, and Money Management.
- **2.0** Apprentices who have gone through the 1.0 program continue to meet with their Blacksmith each month. Examples of the enhanced 2.0 training topics include: conflict resolution, implementing a budget, building a cover letter and resume, and a more in depth exploration of personal strengths and weaknesses.
- **3.0** Apprentices are third year students, mostly young adults, who value their ongoing relationships with their Blacksmiths and desire to continue learning from and meeting with them.
- **Utmost Athletics** - Many high school students who are training with Utmost Athletics are choosing to participate in the Forge trainings. Once a month these athletes share a meal together and cover the 1.0 training material. Utmost athletes have the option of requesting a one-on-one mentor.
- **Clark College Baseball Team** - Each month, 40 hungry athletes from the Clark College baseball team dine together and engage with our 1.0 training program topics. This group has indicated an interest in receiving some added instruction related to grocery shopping on a budget and simple & healthy meal preparation. A number of our athletes struggle to make ends meet and are learning how to survive on their own for the first time. Our provision of community meal time, life skills, job placement, and an encouraging environment offer them a home away from home.



← Clark College students enjoy dinner and conversation together before taking the Myers-Briggs assessment.



Blacksmiths & Apprentices discuss their Myers-Briggs assessment results.



## GIVE!

[www.thecolumbiafutureforge.com](http://www.thecolumbiafutureforge.com)

- Provide Forge training materials for \$20 or training day snacks for \$10
- Contribute to our new mower! Details below...
- Sponsor an Utmost Athlete for \$90/month

## CONTACT US

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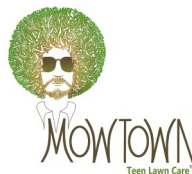
## KEEP MOWTOWN MOWING!



Mowtown has remained busy throughout the winter with both routine maintenance and special projects. Our crew manager, Ivan, supervised 6 teen workers this quarter, maintaining around 45 residential properties each week. Recently, Mowtown has taken on a few commercial properties. This has been an exciting opportunity that enables us to regularly put groups of students to work, but created the need for a larger mower. Say hello to our new mower, the Exmark 30 X-series, which provides a 30% increase in efficiency and is a valuable addition to our mower fleet! Please visit our website or contact us if you'd like to contribute to this equipment purchase. As we are about to spring into our busy season, your donation will help to keep Mowtown mowing! Thanks!



CJ Mills and Jakob Hammar, two of Mowtown's teen employees, worked with a crew to clear, trench and build new stone walls along the curb and around the tree. They worked alongside adults who are experienced with stone work and were able to learn as they went. They did great work!



## THOUGHTS FROM MATT

Forge Supporters!

So much has happened here at The Forge in the last three months that we are thrilled about. Here's a quick summary to fill you in!

- We've been able to provide permanent jobs within our organization for five students. Two Clark College students are now working as part-time night custodians at a local church and three high school students are working for Mowtown every Saturday for a commercial property that we are maintaining.
- Since our last newsletter, Forge apprentices and blacksmiths have completed three trainings: Personality profiles, Professionalism, and Goal-Setting. In March we'll be covering Money Management. We are always open to new apprentices and have been able to welcome a few mid-year.
- One student shared with their mentor how the Goal Setting training was especially helpful for strategizing how to navigate through a major family issue.
- A local high school has welcomed a partnership with The Forge. Beginning next fall, we will bring our life skills/job skills training to freshman and sophomores at school. This will be our first experiment. This will be our first "on campus" experience and we're excited and open to seeing where it leads.
- Through generous donations, we estimate that we will be able to offer an additional 25-40 sponsorships for Utmost athletes (our strength training program). We expect that this will open doors for students who attend lower income schools to participate in our excellent programs.

Thanks for your ongoing support for The Forge. Together we are investing in relationships that change lives!

