Bringing opportunity back

▶ 38TH AND SHERIDAN PROJECT ISSUE 11 | SEPTEMBER 2022



▲ An artist's rendering of the IndyGo stop that is beginning construction at Sherman Drive. The stop will be part of IndyGo's new Purple Line, which will also serve the 38th and Sheridan Project. For more information about IndyGo and the Purple Line, turn to page 4.

Dora's journey

A story of dedication, determination, and a will to succeed

hen you meet Dora Figueroa, the first employee hired at the Goodwill Commercial Services facility at 38th and Sheridan, you can't help but notice her smile. It's contagious. You smile back, because you can't help yourself. She's shy at first, but once she starts talking about her work, she sparkles with energy and enthusiasm. She'll proudly whisk you away to tour the facility, showing you every detail from the break room to the utility room where machinery incessantly hums, and she gestures to the protective hearing equipment warning sign on the door. She'll point out the fitness room, the gown room where employees don Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for work in the manufacturing area, the manufacturing room, and then bring you to a table where the equipment her team manufactures is displayed.

Here is where you sense her knowledge of the work she does and her deep appreciation for the devices she and the other employees manufacture. She'll spend time with you explaining the nuances of manufacturing the Blue Rhino®, one of **Cook Medical's** devices that is manufactured there—how it must be heated just right to bend the device to the exact angle and to soften the edges, and she'll further explain how the logo and other features are printed on the device.



You'll also sense that there's more to her story than simply the facility she works in.

How did she get there? When did she begin working for Goodwill? What motivates her seemingly boundless energy? You'll want to ask her questions, and that's when her story unfolds.

Overcoming barriers

In 1996, when Dora was just 21 years old, she immigrated to the United States from El Salvador.

"It was not easy. I came here speaking no English and

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Dora's journey

without my family," she said. "I came to California, but my father who had immigrated years before me was in Indiana, working as a dishwasher. He did not want his family to come here. He said he didn't want anyone to have to work so hard like he did to give to his family."

But just six months after arriving in California, Dora, determined to make a new life for herself, traveled with her cousin to Indiana through the generous support of friends. She also began working in the restaurant business as a dishwasher.

"That was the only thing you could do at the time when you don't speak English," she said. "You're put in the back room where you don't speak to nobody."

Over the years, Dora married and had three children. She diligently took English classes. Sixteen years later, after a divorce, she found herself on her own with her children. She continued working in minimum wage jobs in restaurants, moving to kitchen work, cooking, and food preparation as her English improved.

Who inspired her to keep going?

"My Dad taught me to work hard. He worked hard until he died. He told me you have to work to survive," Dora said. "Someone else has been my inspiration, too. Juanita Easterling, (director of plant operations at the 38th and Sheridan facility). She's little, but she's strong. I dream to be like that."

New opportunities

Life was about to change again for Dora. Almost two years ago, after over two decades of job searches and working in restaurants, she discovered an employment opportunity at Goodwill through her neighbor, Ashley Gurvitz, CEO at United Northeast Community **Development Corporation (UNEC).**

Dora began working for Goodwill Commercial Services, which contracts with various companies and offers manufacturing, assembly and packaging services. Her first assignment was at the Goodwill facility on Tremont Street in Indianapolis where she folded bags.



manufacturing facility at 38th and Sheridan.

"After three months, I asked the managers what do I need to do to get a raise? They told me I needed to change my position," she said.

Dora then took a job assembling for **Lencore**, another company Goodwill contracted with. She quickly excelled, building her background in manufacturing assembly work.

She decided to learn how to manufacture medical devices through Cook Medical, which was contracting with Goodwill for medical device manufacturing. She spent half her workday training. Her determination did not go unnoticed. Juanita offered her a position in Quality Control as the first employee in the new manufacturing facility for the 38th and Sheridan Project.

"I was so nervous!" Dora recalled. "We moved to the new 38th and Sheridan Goodwill Commercial Services building on March 16, 2022. And then, Juanita said to me, 'I think you can be a supervisor.' It was like a dream for me. I worked in one restaurant for six years and never moved up. I said to her, 'I don't know anything!' She said, 'I will help you.'"

"My dad taught me to work hard. He worked hard until he died. He told me that you have to work to survive."

- Dora Figueroa, the first employee hired at the 38th and Sheridan Project Goodwill Commercial Services facility











◆ Dora, left, and Ashley Gurvitz, CEO of UNEC, were all smiles at the May 4 ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Goodwill Commercial Services facility at 38th and Sheridan.

Supportive surroundings

When Juanita asked Dora what her goal was, Dora humbly stated she wanted to finish course work for her high school diploma. Juanita arranged for her to start classes at the **Goodwill Excel Center**. Now, Dora is starting her second semester and well on her way to earning her high school degree. She's also enrolled in Leadership training through Goodwill. The wrap-around services including education, job coaching, and other support systems that Goodwill offers to their employees are designed to help them succeed.

With family obligations like taking care of her elderly

mother, working, taking classes at the Excel Center, and Leadership training, the supportive environment at Goodwill has helped Dora balance meeting her on-the-job goals and her personal life.

What does she like the most about working at the 38th and Sheridan facility?

"I love everything!" she said with a big smile. "I come in every morning at 6:50 am to open the door for the employees. I just live four minutes away from here. I make sure everybody gets in and is ready to work. I love that Juanita gave me the key and is trusting me. This place makes it better for people to live in the community."

"This place makes it better for people to live in the community."

- Dora Figueroa





Goodwill Commercial Services

Currently hiring for jobs in manufacturing. For more information and to apply for an open position, visit **goodwillindy.org/careers**.









"The great equalizer for communities"

IndyGo taking a holistic approach to providing transportation options for the people of **Indianapolis**

It's amazing how many trips IndyGo does a year. It got me wondering for people in this neighborhood how were they getting around before the Purple Line was up and running?

You still have the **Line 39**, which is our second highest ridership route in our system—but that's not to say that it was still meeting all the needs of everyone in the community. I think individuals are very resourceful. **The Purple Line** will bring more reliable and more frequent service to this part of town. It will also make the area much safer from a walk-ability standpoint.

I think people make decisions about how they will traverse and what mode of transportation they're going to use by all of the elements and factors that are available or lack thereof within your community.

So, are you going to walk in the street with the speeding cars passing by you everyday? For some people that answer is absolutely "yes" because they have no other choice. Is someone going to pay their neighbor \$10 to take them somewhere because it's too unsafe to be walking in the street with the stroller with my kid in it?

I think the Purple Line definitely levels the playing field and allows those architectural barriers to be removed to be able to serve even more of the constituents along that pathway.

How does Line 39 differ from the Purple Line?

The biggest difference is it doesn't have articulated coaches—the 60-foot buses—so there is a capacity issue already on the Line 39 at



▲ Inez Evans was selected as the president and CEO of IndyGo in the summer of 2019. She is the first minority woman president and CEO for the transit agency.

certain times of the day.

Right now, you don't have the sidewalks to get to the bus stops. That will change with the Purple Line because we're fixing that infrastructure. We don't have center running stations right now, we have curbside or side running stations. We don't have dedicated lanes for public transportation, we are at the mercy everybody else on the road. With the Purple Line, the bus will have priority.

You could argue in some ways that the infrastructure you're helping build could have a negative impact on IndyGo— because you're making it easier for people to walk and bike places. But overall, those improvements are going to have a positive impact on the neighborhood. At the same time, as you said, people have to be pedestrians or riding

bicycles first, to get to a place where they can get on a bus.

Exactly. I think that's where IndyGo takes a very holistic approach. We are in the business of moving people.

You'll often see that we partner to do other projects—trail projects, pavement projects, sidewalk projects. We partner with the bicycles and the scooters to make it more accessible to our bus stops.

When you take a very comprehensive approach to the movement of individuals you can't just be relegated to the tires that you're managing.

One of the philosophies that Cook and Goodwill share is to be a good community partner. It feels like IndyGo has that exact same philosophy.

Absolutely. I'm not sure if you're aware of the significant investment besides the Purple Line that we're making on the eastside. Our new headquarters is going to be located at 33rd and Post Road (a little over three miles from the 38th and Sheridan Project). It is a multi-million dollar investment by our organization. We also were just awarded \$33 million from the FTA, the Federal Transit Administration, to build our brand new bus facility over there to house buses.

The east side has needed a tremendous amount of investment from businesses and it was the logical choice for us—besides we got a great deal on a building, that didn't hurt either.

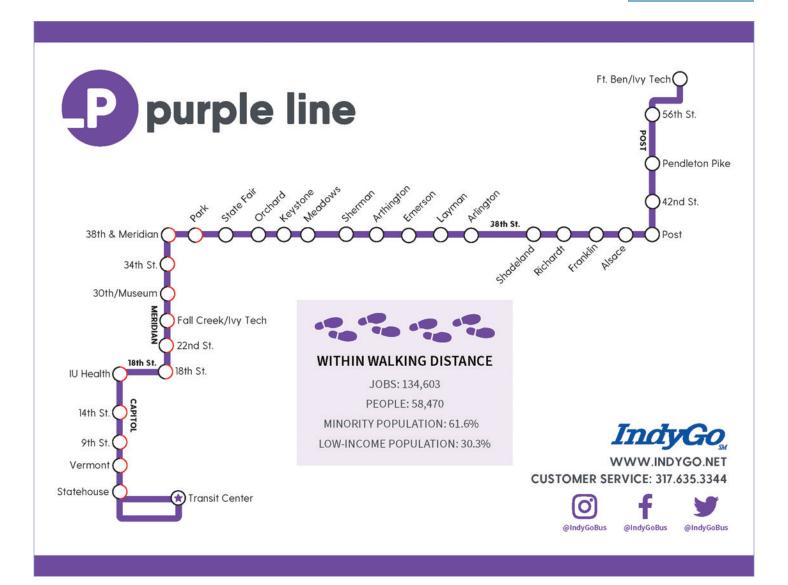
We're focusing on where we can add











additional lines or tweak our lines.

We additionally have a partnership with Pathway Resource Center on a program called **Driven to Success** which is micro transit on the east side. They've gotten additional funding from **United Way**. We are seeding them \$70,000 a year for the next two years and donated five buses. We have worked to get them training to train their trainers to train their drivers. We believe in community empowerment.

What does having access to transportation like this mean for a community?

It means everything. I grew up in New York City-in a place where

there were sidewalks, there were subways, there were buses on every corner.

So, to come to other areas where we don't check all of those boxes-vou see how transportation bridges the gap. It is the great equalizer for communities, I think is the best way for me to say it. It garners access.

There are areas within our city where the ridership is really bad—I mean we're transporting maybe four or five people an hour-but IndyGo is still there because without us that community becomes an island. They have no bridge, they have no connection, to jobs to healthcare to food.

That's what public transportation is.

You have the choice riders as they call them (people who choose to ride public transportation instead of private), but 70% of those who use IndyGo make less than \$35,000 a vear. The cost of an automobile can be upwards of \$11,000 to \$12,000 annually-so not everyone has the additional option of that.

One thing I know I've seen when I was in some cities that had amazing public transportation was groups of school kids being taken on field trips. School corporations that maybe can't afford a bus or a bus driver, but they can afford to put

Continued on the next page









the kids on public transportation and take them to a museum or take them to a concert or to a theater.

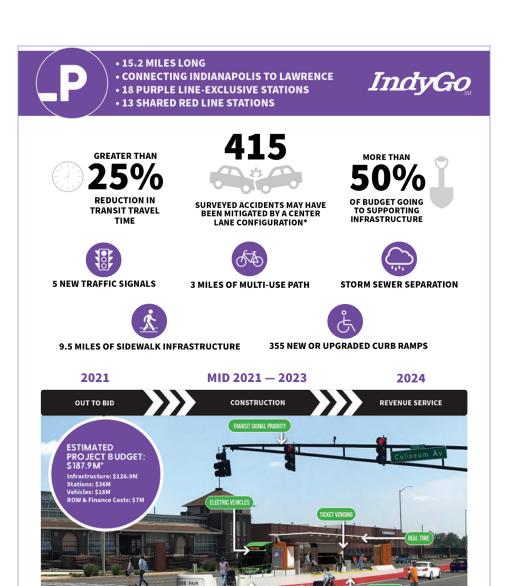
We have those programs. Lesley (Gordon, chief public affairs officer at IndyGo) and her team coordinate with IPS (Indianapolis Public Schools) and any other school who wants us to coordinate for them to go to a bus stop. We have a discounted pass program, so we don't do it for free, but you get a reduced fare. Our fare is \$1.75, so it's definitely cheaper than chartering a bus.

And we hit all the major attractions within our city. We go to the zoo, we go to the children's museum, we go downtown which is walking distance to **Gainbridge Fieldhouse** and **Lucas Oil Stadium**. We go to the **Indianapolis Motor Speedway**. One day we will go to the new soccer stadium. We hit all of the main events within our city.

You love your job, don't you?

I've been doing this now for 30 years. I wouldn't do it if I didn't love it. Still, I started doing this because I needed a job, to be honest. It started as a job and it's turned into a careerand almost a ministry, in a way, because in public transportation we get to affect the lives of 10, 12, 20 thousand people every single day. That is the coolest thing in the world, that you get to have such a positive effect on so many people on a daily basis, not many other people can say that.

It was more evident the commitment of our teammates when COVID hit. We were all like, "What do we need to do and how do we need to do it because there are people out there that need us." We are part of a system. We are one of the cogs in the wheel. Folks still needed to get to FedEx, folks still needed to get to the hospital, folks still needed to get to the grocery store to stock the shelves still, the hotels that were still running still needed workers to



get to the hotels—they all needed IndyGo. That's why we were there and those people showed up at those bus stations and were so glad to see those buses were still rolling.

Estimated budget as of December 2021.

You've talked about all the related infrastructure projects that are coming up and partnerships. Who are you partnering with to get all of this accomplished?

A lot of folks.

Definitely the **City of Indianapolis** is a huge partner for us. They own the streets so we definitely have to gain their consensus whenever we're doing anything on the streets. I don't want to put them above anybody

else but they're probably the one that we talked to the most when we're working on these projects.

CEG (Citizen's Energy Group) is another partner for us because what's underneath the ground generally has their name on it as well as the city. Then you have other partners like AES and Comcast because their stuff is probably in there as well.

What we try to do is say, "Okay, we're opening up the ground at this location during this time. Do you have any updates that you need to do to your infrastructure while we're in there?" Many will take advantage of that to run fiber









optic cables into areas which is a savings to them because they're not digging up the ground in order to run those cabling systems. Or, as in the area of Fall Creek, where the DPW (Department of Public Works) are taking advantage of the ground being open to take care of a sewer separation project that's costing them \$12 million.

We work wholeheartedly with a number of partners.

I don't want to forget **Ivy Tech**. Ivy Tech partnered with us at our **Lawrence** station at **Fort Ben** to donate the land that the station is going to be located on.

It takes a lot of different partners in different ways.

So moving to the 38th and Sheridan Project, do you remember when you found out about it? And what are your feelings about the development that's happening there?

We had been called to the statehouse to testify about the **Blue Line** and I was told that the representative from **Cook Medical** was coming to speak. I was like, "Okay, who is that?"

My team started to inform me then that Cook Medical was locating their facilities specifically on the Purple Line. I was able to talk briefly and to hear them speak about their "why." They said they could have located this manufacturing plant anywhere. They could have gone out to Plainfield like everybody else does. But they made a conscious decision to place this manufacturing facility where it would do the greatest good because there was the greatest need.

I applaud them for making such a conscious decision because we have had too many companies leave our city ranks. The **Amazons** of the world–and I'm an Amazon shopper so I'm not hating on Amazon–they're like, "We're gonna build it, so transit needs to follow."

Well, IndyGo doesn't go to Plainfield. That's not **Marion County**.

So, I applaud Cook for thinking of it from all aspects as a business owner. They not only thought about how it was going to empower the neighborhood and be transformative to the neighborhood, but they also said this is where the workers are. Why make it difficult for folks to get to work?

Public transportation became a key component of their mission and so we parallel in our mission together—on being able to transform communities and lives.

For more information about IndyGo's Purple Line, visit www.indygo.net/purple-line/

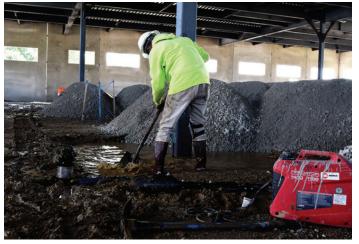


















How are we doing?

Since the start of the Indy Fresh Market construction project: 30 job applications have been received via the project website, 25 additional onsite job applications have been received, and 3 hiring events have been held.

This information was collected by Akilah Darden, president of The Darden Group LLC.







Fighting food insecurity

Local programs help to ensure Indianapolis residents have enough to eat

he Equitable Food Access in Indianapolis Neighbor**hoods** initiative, funded by the **Anthem Foundation**, is a community-based planning and implementation process that convenes residents, community leaders, subject matter experts, and civic organizations to



develop a vision of equitable food access that will be translated into achievable strategies.

In June 2021, LISC **Indianapolis** and Anthem Foundation announced that the Northeast Corridor in Indianapolis

was selected to be the focal point of the three-year, \$2.45 million initiative to improve nutritious food access and help build a more equitable food system.

A community-based planning and implementation process has now begun in this community that convenes residents, community leaders, subject matter experts and civic organizations to develop a vision of equitable food access, coupled with strategies for physical developments, programmatic partnerships and investment to achieve that vision. The neighborhood is using a collaborative approach to determine which food projects will be supported, launched or expanded. Emphasis is being placed on ensuring all projects improve food access and economic mobility for the area, are community-led, and help build racial equity.

Visit www.equitablefoodaccess.org/ for more information.

See page 11 for additional resources



Locations

June 1 through August 31, 2022

Tuesdays 4 - 6 PM

Marion County Flection Board 3737 Washington St., 46201

Wednesdays 12 - 2 PM

Avondale Meadows YMCA 3908 Meadows Dr., 46205

Thursdays 3 - 5 PM

Ivy Tech Community College 101 W. 28th St., 46208

Fridays 4 - 6 PM

Eskenazi Health Center W. 38th St. 5515 W. 38th St., 46254

Saturdays 9 AM - 12PM

John Marshall High School 10101 E 38th St., 46236

Two ways to get help:



- 1. Download the Community Compass App
- 2. Text the word "Hi" to 317-434-3758 For more information, visit indyhunger.org/compass



Questions? Text SNAP to 55433 or call 317-644-1280 for help applying for SNAP

In partnership with the city of Indianapolis Public Safety Agencies:





Ubicaciones

1 de junio al 31 de agosto

martes 4 a 6 PM

Marion County Election Board 3737 Washington St., 46201

miércoles 12 a 2 PM

Avondale Meadows YMCA 3908 Meadows Dr., 46205

jueves 3 a 5 PM

Ivv Tech Community College 101 W. 28th St., 46208

viernes 4 a 6 PM

Eskenazi Health Center W. 38th St. 5515 W. 38th St., 46254

sábado 9AM a 12PM

John Marshall High School 10101 E 38th St., 46236

Dos formas de obtener ayuda



1. Descarga la aplicación en tu teléfono palabra hola a 317-434-3758 Para más información visite indyhunger.org/compass



¿Preguntas? Envía SNAP al 55433 o llame al 317-644-1280 para obtener ayuda para solicitar SNAP

En asociación con las agencias de seguridad pública de la ciudad de Indianápolis:

















Who's hiring?

A closer look at the companies hiring construction and manufacturing employees for the 38th and Sheridan Project.

The general contractor, Harmon Construction, and all of the subcontractors are currently hiring diverse talent for construction jobs for the 38th and Sheridan Project. Goodwill Commercial Services is also hiring manufacturing employees to work in their newly-completed facility. Residents from 38th and Sheridan area are strongly encouraged

If you see a job you are interested in, you can reach out directly to that company, visit www.38thandSheridan.com, or you can contact Akilah Darden from the Darden Group LLC at jobs@38thandSheridan.com or 317.385.8954.

Construction jobs and training available





Harmon Construction is a general contractor based in North Vernon, IN. Harmon Construction was established in 1955.



Harmon Steel is a stee erection company based in Indianapolis,



Harmon Construction - Hiring also hiring for Taylor Brothers and Harmon Steel

Steel erectors, carpenters Apprenticeship Program Available Hailee.Harmon@harmongroup.com Taylor Bros. Construction is a Construction is a general contractor based out of Columbus, IN. Established in 1933, We work in over half of the states in the USA. Taylor Bros

Fox Contracting

Hiring Equipment Operators & Laborers

bkochersperger@foxcontractors.com 317.281.8963

Multicraft Fire Protection

Hiring Union 669–Sprinkler Fitter Apprenticeship Program Available

bfunk@multicraftdec.com 812.336.5005

ATEC Electrical

Jim Bird 765.482.8926 j.bird@atec-electric.com

Sexson Mechanical

Plumbers, Steamfitters, & HVACR Service Technician

Apprenticeship Program-Local 440 (ualocal440.org)

Corey Stein cstein@sexsonmechanical.com 317.989.5486

Ironworkers Local 22

Hiring Ironworks Apprenticeship Program Union Membership & **Pension Program**

(Will work onsite with HG Metals and Harmon Steel fabricating/erecting on the project)

> Ironworkers22.com 5600 Dividend Road, Indianapolis

Price Construction Group, LLC

Now hiring!

https://priceconstructiongroup.com/ info@priceconstructiongroup.com 317.723.3201

AGM-Architecture, **Glass & Metal**

Jeff Hutson 317.472.7449 jhutson@agmcompany.com

Apogee Construction

Local 19 Roofers & Waterproofers Apprenticeship Program Available www.indyroofers.com 317.484.8990

Taylor Brothers

Carpentry, doors/frames/ hardware Josh Imlay (812) 379-9547 josh.imlay@tbcci.com

Indiana Laborers' Training Institute

Local 120-Laborers' Union Apprenticeship Program IndyRoofers.com 317.484.8990

Difiniti Group

Drywall installation, acoustical ceiling panels Guadaloupe Baldazo

(317) 496-0635 gb@difinitigroup.com









Construction jobs and training available

Sheet Metal Workers

S.M.A.R.T. Local 20– Apprenticeship Program

(S.M.A.R.T.=Sheet Metal Air Rail Transportation)

Metal & Copper Roofs, Metal Siding, Gutters

2828 E. 45th Street, Indianapolis 317.549.6013

Robert Haines

Sealed concrete Floors, Joint Sealants

Jim Pridgen

317.547.5271

jim@roberthainesco.com

Mr. Green Jeans

Landscaping
William Petty
317.289.6801
william223petty@msn.com

Community Development



United Northeast
Community Development
Corporation

Localized Support Programming

www.anuimpact.org
@anuimpactindy
ashley.gurvitz@anuimpact.org
317.546.6240



Diabetes Impact Project-Indianapolis Neighborhoods (DIP-IN)

This project is working to help people improve their health. As a Community Health Worker (CHW) in your area, I would love to assist you in achieving better health.

What can a Neighborhood DIP-IN Community Health Worker (CHW) help you with?

- Provide diabetes and general health information and education
- Connect you to health and social resources
- Provide social support
- Advocate for your health
- Serve as a link to the overall community
- ...And more!

I'd love to connect with you. As a CHW for the Northeast area, I am here to be a resource for residents. Feel free to reach out to me via phone or email:

Summer Burks

Phone #: 317-749-2782 Email: summer.burks@anuimpact.org







Follow us on Instagram!

Get regular updates and see the progress of the **38th and Sheridan Project** at **www.instagram.com/38thandsheridan**

We want to hear from you!

We want to hear your feedback about this project! Please send your questions, concerns, or thoughts to **community@cookmedical.com**.







38TH STREET AND SHERIDAN AVENUE

Job Opportunities

Apply to Work in Construction

We're proud to announce that Cook Medical, Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana, The Indianapolis Foundation, IMPACT Central Indiana, and the United Northeast Community Development Corporation have partnered on a unique project to bring opportunity back to an underserved Northeast Indy community. The 38th and Sheridan Avenue project includes a medical device manufacturing facility and a full-service grocery store call the Indy Fresh Market.

The Indy Fresh Market is estimated to be completed in December of 2022, and we're looking for people to join our contractor teams!

We have job opportunities and training available in the following areas:

- ☐ Earthwork, Site Utilites
- Storefronts
- □ Roof and Metal Siding
- Electrical
- ☐ Stud, Drywall, Insulation, Acoustical Ceiling
- Structural Steel
- ☐ Plumbing and HVAC

- ☐ Fire Protection Sprinkler System
- Rough Carpentry, Door and Hardware
- Concrete Foundations and Slab on Grade
- Sealed Concrete Floors. Joint Sealants
- Landscaping

How to Apply

- 1.) To apply for construction jobs, visit 38thandSheridan.com.
- 2.) Select the "Construction Job Seekers" button at the bottom of the page and complete the simple online form.
- 3.) You will be connected to a wide range of local sub-contractors, which are listed on the next page.

Unsure of which construction trade fits your interest? Please email Akilah Darden with The Darden Group, LLC at

akilah@dardengroupllc.com or PM@dardengroupllc.com, and her team can provide assistance.

Employees have access to comprehensive benefits programs and options for pension with the union contractors.











