

## Parent Helping Parents – Caroline Hogberg’s Story



*Caroline assisting a client at PJN's office.*

One of the driving forces behind ParentJobNet’s (PJN) ability to service parents of school age children is a small army of volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts to help make PJN an effective community-based organization.

Caroline Hogberg, a mother from Manhattan, a career counselor with PJN is one of those people who has embraced the vision of ParentJobNet, and wanted to do more than just sing its praises.

“I decided to volunteer for ParentJobNet because I feel very strongly in the mission of the organization, and because I believe that my background in HR (human resources) and recruitment in particular, could be of some help in the career counselor position,” Hogberg said. “I also appreciate the fact that the organization has a local perspective, and that its focus is primarily on helping its clients find employment and an income, which is such a key factor to independence. Since PJN is particularly focused on parents, whole families are benefitting from the work, and that is also a wonderful aspect.”

Those ideas are part of the core of PJN’s mission to provide real world solutions to the everyday problems of parents with school age children. As stated, Hogberg’s experience in human resources is a tremendous asset to PJN, which this year helped over 600 parents with job related programs and services and found real employment for 36 people through Workforce 1 and other services. Hogberg, who has a Master’s of Science degree in International Business and French, understands the value of experience.

“I believe that my business experience is very valuable in what I am doing for PJN, as I can use my previous experience to guide clients in what employers might be looking for in a résumé and in how a job seeker presents him or herself to the employer,” Hogberg stated.

PJN understands that parents of school age children carry their own unique issues. Raising a family and trying to find work while creating a sense of security and well-being isn’t easy. Hogberg has seen that up close as a PJN career counselor. “It is sometimes frustrating to see clients putting a lot of effort into their job search process, and

seemingly doing everything right, but still not getting any positive response from prospective employers,” said Hogberg. “The economy is still down, and the competition is very high. Employers do not have the time or resources to give proper feedback to applicants.”

PJN is an instrument to help ease that journey with parents looking for answers to myriad questions, frustrations and disappointments. Hogberg strikes a major note in that regard, understanding that people sincerely helping each other is always a good thing.

“The most gratifying thing about my time at PJN has been all the wonderful people I have met, both the staff and the clients, said Hogberg, “and parents’ helping each other is a total win-win situation!”

*by Michael George*