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Mayor Lee and United Way Host Job Resource Fair for Youth *800 Young Job Seekers Turn Out to Gain Skills and Find Jobs*

May 13, 2013 (SAN FRANCISCO) – More than 800 young people joined San Francisco Mayor Edwin M. Lee and 200 San Francisco professionals on Saturday for the San Francisco Summer Jobs+ Youth Resource Fair. Young job seekers visited workshops with corporate volunteers who helped them with their resumes and coached them through mock interviews. Youth also had the opportunity to meet with local employers and community organizations offering job placement services and support.

United Way of the Bay Area's MatchBridge program was onsite to help youth sign up for the Summer Jobs+ database, which will provide them access to thousands of job opportunities offered by employers responding to the [Mayor's call for summer jobs](#). United Way of The Bay Area is co-leading San Francisco's effort in support of the Mayor's Summer Jobs+ Program along with Department of Children Youth and their Families, Office of Economic and Workforce Development, and the San Francisco Unified School District.

Mayor Lee greeted the youth attendees and had some fun as well, judging a tie tying contest and announcing special giveaways, including San Francisco Giants tickets, gift cards and two summer internships.

"I'm so impressed that all of you are here today, taking advantage of the resources available in our city to help each of you secure a summer job or internship," said Mayor Lee, addressing the youth in attendance. "San Francisco is the best city in the world and we have a young generation ready to step up and take their place in our community. I applaud each of you for your initiative – you truly are our future workforce and our future leaders."

"Last year, 5,200 young people were at work throughout the summer as part of Summer Jobs+. In fact, almost 700 of those young people were then hired by their employers for full time jobs," said Eric McDonnell, Chief Operating Officer, United Way of the Bay Area, introducing the Mayor. "That's a testament to the commitment of our local businesses, but more importantly, it's a testament to the talent of our Bay Area young people."

"What an incredible learning experience! I learned how to be professional, and how to work both independently and with others," said Asmae, a participant in Summer Jobs+ 2012 who now works for Uniqlo. "Most importantly, I built self-confidence, and I was inspired to get my high school diploma."

Representatives from PG&E and Bank of America, the two lead sponsors for SF Summer Jobs+, were onsite to volunteer. "At PG&E, we're excited to extend our support for San Francisco Summer Jobs+ for a second year," said PG&E Corporation Chairman, CEO and President Tony Earley. "We believe that this program provides youth and adults with the experience, skills and inspiration they need to achieve employment and fulfilling careers."

“As part of our national mission to support workforce development, Bank of America is committed to Summer Jobs+ 2013,” added Janet Lamkin, president, Bank of America, California. “And we’re walking the talk by not only supporting Summer Jobs+ financially, but also through our employee volunteers and internship opportunities.”

Other employers who’ve already committed to hiring Summer Jobs+ participants in 2013 include Salesforce.com, Starbucks, Advent, Nektar, Twilio, Jawbone, members of SFMade, the City of San Francisco and many more.

Employers are encouraged to post job and internship opportunities through United Way of the Bay Area’s MatchBridge program at www.matchbridge.org/summer.

Young job seekers can text JOBS to 50555 for more information on how to apply for jobs, or visit www.matchbridge.org/summer to log into the online database.

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About United Way of the Bay Area

United Way of the Bay Area is a nonprofit organization, leading a movement to cut Bay Area poverty in half by 2020. We’re harnessing the collective power of nonprofits, government, corporations, labor and thousands of individuals to create change through giving, advocating, and volunteering. Every year, our programs - SparkPoint, Earn It! Keep It! Save It!, 211, MatchBridge and Community Schools – help more than 250,000 Bay Area residents. We connect people to food and shelter, put people back to work, bring tax dollars back to our community, help youth succeed in school and in the workplace, and move people toward financial stability. Founded in 1922, United Way of the Bay Area serves Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo and Solano Counties. For more information, visit www.uwba.org.

About MatchBridge

MatchBridge is United Way of the Bay Area’s youth employment program, focused on placing young people in jobs and internships that enable work-based learning. Our mission is to create pathways for youth to gain early work experiences so they will become financially secure as adults. The program coaches MatchBridge participants throughout the job search process, helping them gain exposure to careers and a positive future. Not only does this help them build professional skills, confidence and a stronger work ethic, it also builds motivation to complete high school and go on to college or other types of education. Since 2005, MatchBridge has connected more than 1,300 young people, ages 16-24, to work experiences in a variety of business settings. Last year, we placed 5,200 youth through San Francisco Summer Jobs+, a partnership with the San Francisco Mayor’s Office. Learn more about MatchBridge at www.matchbridge.org.