**Ka Joog**

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**About Ka Joog:**

Ka Joog is a nationally recognized Somali youth development organization tailored towards enriching the lives of Somali American youth by utilizing the positive elements of education, mentoring, employment, and the arts. Ka Joog’s mission is to motivate youth to pursue higher education, while promoting and building community ties at events throughout Minnesota.

Established in 2007 by a group of Somali young adults, Ka Joog focuses its efforts on encouraging Somali youth to “Ka Joog” or “stay away” from negative influences such as drugs, violence, and other behaviors that can be detrimental to their development and future. Instead, Ka Joog directs youth towards higher education, civic involvement, and a volunteer commitment to the community. Ka Joog helps Somali youth understand their options and make the right choices, through programs offering mentoring, tutoring, and job readiness training.

Ka Joog has received local and national recognition for its accomplishments, including, but not limited to the Somali-American Community Appreciation Award, the Youth Leadership of the Year Award by the City of Minneapolis, and a notable mention in the U.S. Congressional Record in honor of “... its contributions to the Somali community of Minnesota through art, education, and political action.”

**Phlebotomy Training:**

Ka Joog is partnering with the Pathway Careers Training Center to provide free phlebotomy training/certification and job placement for individuals across the state. Pathway Careers Training Center is a premier training institution in Minnesota dedicated to increasing career development through technical education in order to improve economic progress through workforce development initiatives. The mission of Pathway Careers Training Center is to provide access to excellence an exceptionally high quality and certified trainings to the next generation of caring healthcare professionals.

The Phlebotomy Technician training will give over 1300 individuals the credentials and certifications that are needed to succeed in a rewarding healthcare career in laboratories, hospitals, clinics and other in- patient and out-patient settings. The Phlebotomy Technician training program will teach skills and knowledge needed to successfully collect blood specimens from patients and prepare them for testing and laboratory analysis. The training will also cover patient safety, specimen collections and processing, HIPAA regulations and biohazard safety.

Individuals will be required to complete 80 hours of applied experiences and perform at least 30 unaided venipuncture collections and 10 unaided capillary collections. Individuals must also successfully pass a Phlebotomy Technician exam administered by the National Healthcare Association. The program offers instruction in several collection techniques, including vacuum collection devices and capillary/skin-puncture methods.

Recruitments and outreach for this will be done in the following areas:

• Twin Cities

• St. Cloud

• Willmar

• Rochester

• Moorhead

• Faribault

• Owatonna

• Mankato

• Austin