

## The Clipper Visits: Ingrid Drago

Local Business Woman Inspires Hope

By MORAG MACLACHLAN

Jean Delaney was looking for help and to her surprise the phone rang.

"It's been a blessing. She's a wonderful lady," Delaney said.

This wonderful lady is Duxbury's own Ingrid Drago. Drago owns ID Staffing Solutions in the Island Creek Office Park. Usually, Drago and her staff spend the work week matching clients with positions in the administration, accounting and insurance fields. And once a month, they take a trip to the Plymouth Coalition for the Homeless in Kingston to help the people there get back out into the professional world.

"They're good people. It's fun to get to know them. Making a difference feels good," Drago said.

Drago knows her craft. Straight out of college, she began working for a national staffing company before opening her own staffing business in Hyannis. She eventually opened a second location in Marshfield. Six years ago she sold both businesses, but then realized how much she missed this line of work.



Jean Delaney, case manager at Plymouth Area Coalition for the Homeless, and Ingrid Drago, owner of ID Staffing Solutions, mark the start of a partnership between the non-profit, which houses homeless families, and the company, which will provide computer training and skill building workshops for Coalition residents.

"It's self-rewarding both professionally and personally," Drago said.

A year after selling her two locations, Drago opened ID Staffing Solutions. Between running her own business and spending time with her family, Drago also managed to donate to 35 charities last year. Yet, she wanted to do more.

"I wanted to align myself with something to donate money and energy to," Drago said.

That's when she contacted

Delaney, a case manager at the Plymouth Coalition for the Homeless. Drago and her staff began offering monthly workshops last fall. How to navigate the Internet for jobs and creating a resume are topics that have been discussed thus far.

"We visit the first Friday of every month. We talk about the job search, using the Internet, building a resume, word processing skills, interviewing skills and attire,"

**"The bottom line is honestly just giving them hope. It gives them that motivation that there is a job out there for everybody."**

**- Ingrid Drago, ID Staffing Solutions**

Drago said. "The bottom line is honestly just giving them hope. It gives them that motivation that there is a job out there for everybody."

Drago not only provides instruction, she and her staff also bring useful materials. The company presented the coalition with a laptop, printer and office furniture to allow people to search the Internet

for openings or tweak their resume at any time. Drago is also planning a professional clothing drive so that when someone at the coalition lands a job interview, they will look their best.

"We're just pointing them in the right direction," Drago said.

Delaney has already seen the results of Drago's work. She said some of the people at the coalition have been able to secure jobs.

"The people here are more self-sufficient now," Delaney said. "Ingrid has really gone above and beyond."

Drago's outreach does not end at the coalition. In Duxbury, she has availed her services to members of Holy Family Church and the Senior Center. Drago has collaborated with Linda Hayes at the Senior Center to provide workshops for seniors, educating them about professional opportunities in the area.

"Many of them think they will face age discrimination, but that is not the case. There are opportunities out there," Drago said.

At Holy Family, Drago has contributed to the church's newsletter and run workshops about crafting a resume.

Drago said her staff shares her philanthropic streak. Each month when she needs volunteers to accompany her to the coalition, her employees fight over who will go.

"We're pointing people in the right direction...showing them how to access information and apply for jobs online," Drago said. "It's quite rewarding in that regard. You just hope to make a difference every day and by aligning myself with them, I really can."



**Duxbury business owner Ingrid Drago believes in giving back to the community. She and her employees volunteer at the Duxbury Senior Center and the Plymouth Coalition for the Homeless.**