

Bishop Sullivan Center

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“WHY CAN’T THEY JUST GET A JOB?” LANDING WORK TODAY NOT LIKE BEFORE

By Wayne Dohlman, Staff

I got my first paying job in 1962 when I was 10 years old ... mowing grass and pulling weeds in Mrs. Keith’s flower garden for 35 cents an hour. I had no problem finding summer jobs in the rural town where I grew up. Since I never really had to look for work, I came to believe that if you wanted to work, then the jobs would find you. Back then finding a job was still a relatively simple and straight-forward process. If a business was hiring, they would put a sign in the window or buy an ad in the local paper and all the job seeker had to do was walk in, fill out a short application and talk to the manager. But the days of landing a job that way are gone.

Now, you apply on-line and are screened initially not by a person, but by computer software. Most on-line applications require detailed information about your past work history and residences. They also include timed tests of basic math, communication and comprehension skills, personality assessments and “what if” situation tests to predict candidates’ “acceptability.” All that just to get your application submitted. A human has yet to see your application.

Before I came to work in the Employment Services Program, I believed that anyone who really wanted to work could find a good job. I had little appreciation and even less sympathy for anyone who was chronically unemployed or “under-employed.” But I soon realized that I was wrong. The reality is that most of our clients desperately want to work, are committed



A client gets help from a staff member with an on-line application.

to the process of finding a job and have been looking for work for several months before they come to us. Few of them have the computer skills needed and fewer still have the detailed personal and professional information required to successfully complete a typical on-line job application.

That is where our program makes a difference. Every new client that enters our program is assigned a counselor whose job it is to help each client remove the barriers that have prevented him or her from finding and keeping a job. People who enter the program with little or no computer skills are scheduled for computer training and have access to our computer room.

Applying for a job today is not what it used to be. Thanks to your help, we are teaching people the new way to job hunt and they are getting hired. From January 2013 through July of 2015, more than 1,000 people found work with the help of Bishop Sullivan Center’s Employment Services staff.



The only way to apply for most companies is on-line.



“MY HOUSE WAS AS HOT AS AN OVEN”

WORDS OF GRATITUDE FROM PROJECT ELDERCOOL RECIPIENTS

“I am under hospice care and was without air on some of the hottest days of the year. God bless all who donate to this amazing center. Thank you is not enough.”

“...you all came to my home and put a window unit into my dining room. About 4 hours later, I was looking at KCTV 5 news. They told me, ‘a woman had passed away.’ It is thought she died of heat. I thought to myself thank God for this window unit that you just put into my home!!!”

“Thank you from the bottom of my heart my house was hot as an oven when Bishop Sullivan delivered the air conditioner..”

“God bless you for your generosity. The a/c is appreciated. I had 2 strokes and it’s hard to sit in the heat.”

“I was struggling to breathe last year. Now I’m keeping cool and breathing much easier. This program is a blessing.”

“I want to thank you all for my new air conditioner. Man it was hot in this house, my asthma started, I was so short of breath, but last night I slept so good. God bless you all and thanks.”

“I am an elderly woman that has retired from teaching and I’m on a fixed income trying to make it month to month. You just don’t know how much you’ve blessed me.”

“I want to thank you for my air conditioner. I am on oxygen and have asthma and it is hard for me to breathe. May the Lord bless you all for giving this to me.”

“With each advancing year my asthma has gotten worse and high temperatures like high 80’s and 90’s, when coupled with high humidity, put me in the hospital. This year I will not see the emergency room, thanks to Bishop Sullivan and the benefactor who provided me an air conditioner.”



78-year-old Barbara gets a bit of relief from her a/c.



An end to 90+ degree days in Earnestine’s home.



Oliver no longer sweats it out. He served our Country in the 1950’s.



Shirley, a recovering stroke patient, is cool & comfortable.

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