A mirror hangs in each of the three resource rooms of our Employment Program. Next to the mirror are signs that read, “Would you hire me?” “Remember to smile.” “Check your look.”

Many people who come to our program, though they are middle-aged, are really starting over. Some are fresh out of prison, others are staying in a homeless shelter. When looking for a job, consciously or unconsciously, you are forced to look at yourself and ask “What kind of job fits me?” Finding any job is easy; finding one that fits who you are is hard.

Periodically in life, we may find ourselves in a spot where we have to figuratively look in a mirror and ask very basic questions, “Who am I?” “Where am I going?” What’s it all about?” “Why must I bear this pain?” It can be hard to look at a mirror when it is asking tough questions.

When people come to Bishop Sullivan Center, the first sign they see is an offer for help to find work. In 2017, 698 people entered our Employment Program and of those, we helped 405 find jobs.

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.” (James 1: 22-24)

In addition to helping people find work, we also help them overcome any small obstacles that may prevent them from landing a job. For example, this man had only one pair of torn dress shoes and needed work boots, so we provided them for him.
Dealing with Smelly Feet

Social workers at schools that serve low-income children have told us that one need many children have is a good pair of shoes. When living on a very tight budget, a new pair of shoes are not considered a necessity. So, periodically, we visit such schools and provide shoes for kids who could use a pair.

The picture here is of one of our volunteers getting ready to put a new pair of shoes on this boy. The smile on the boy’s face is priceless.

On Holy Thursday we are reminded of when Jesus got on his knees to wash the feet of his disciples. At first Peter wanted no part of it, but after Jesus explained it was the only way for Peter for to be a part of Jesus, then Peter was all in. Wonder if he had a smile as big as this boy’s.

Whose “smelly feet” needs your attention?

“I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” (John 13:14-17)