

December 2014

## Happy New Hope

The changeover from one year to the next seems to naturally cause me to reflect on the past and ponder: Was it a good year? What was the best thing that happened? What was painful?

But no matter how I feel about last year...the new year always feels like a fresh start to me; like I have a clean slate and the best version of the story of my life can now begin. I love the promise of the new year, the chance for a new beginning. Doesn't the opportunity of a new year fill you with happy new hope?

Today I received a note from a job seeker who began coming to Daily Work in September. His kind words made me think about how finding and starting a new job is a lot like starting a new year; it is filled with the hope and promise that this year will be the best yet.

The note read in part: **"...My gratitude to you and Daily Work is boundless and thank you for the positive feeling you have eventually created in me after nearly three years of confusion regarding job opportunities..."**

The job seeker that wrote this note does not yet have the job he wants, but he does have new hope and direction about how to get it. There is no number that can quantify the power of that gift.

Your support of and friendship with Daily Work empowered and renewed the energy of more than 200 job seekers who came through our doors in 2014. That's a 50 percent increase from last year! Better yet, nearly 50 percent found work with our help...that's an increase of nearly 15 percent.

But we're already planning for how 2015 will be better...by serving more people and helping them find more and better jobs! Jobs that have an average return on investment of more than \$10 to \$1!

Your gifts of ideas, job leads, volunteer time, office supplies, postage stamps, and yes, money, is what gives job seekers at Daily Work that New Year's feeling all year 'round.

Like our job seeker, our gratitude to you is "boundless." Thank you and Happy New Year!

*Julie and everyone at Daily Work*

**PS: Just \$1,800 to go! Help us reach our 2014 fundraising goal by donating now at [Happy New HOPE Contribution!](#)**



**Happy New Year from Daily Work!**  
Back row - L to R: Lee, Hellen, Maggie, Jenipa, Theresa,  
Front: Virginia and Jessica

## **...Everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle** **How a "strengths perspective" can help you win the war** *by Holly Dieatrick, social work intern*

One of my favorite sayings goes like this:  
*Be kind -- for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle (Ian Maclaren).*

I strive to remember this when working with job seekers at Daily Work. Like each of us, every job seeker has a unique story and a personal journey filled with ups and downs. This reminds me to consider other view points, helps me relate better to others, and most importantly, embrace differences.

Embracing differences helps us to grow, to critically think about our own beliefs and judgments, and step outside of our own little box and understand others as a whole, and not disregard their thoughts, feelings, statements, or actions simply because they are different than ours.

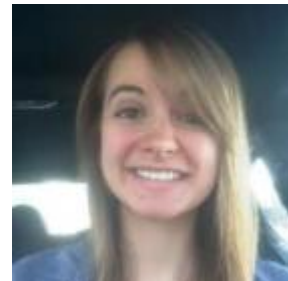
At Daily Work we help people struggling with poverty and unemployment, no matter how different we may be. We help job seekers take their past experiences, learn from them, and then become stronger from those experiences. We embrace differences and showcase them as strengths and unique traits that they can bring to employers. In social work, we call this "strengths perspective."

A strengths perspective assesses a person's strengths and then builds on them. This approach empowers them and helps reframe their perceptions to find good even in the most difficult situations.

This is a great perspective to use in your own life, too. Take a moment before the year ends and write down your own strengths and think about how you can build on them and use them in your life. Next time you are faced with a personal challenge, pull out your list and use the strengths you identified to help you make the best of a difficult time.

*This post was written in part by Holly Dieatrick, a social work intern with Daily Work and a junior at Bethel University. She wrote it as a reflection about what she is learning about herself and others by interning at Daily Work.*

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