

May 16, 2013

Daily Work and Job Seekers share a Common Goal... Financial Sustainability

Working with job seekers at Daily work is incredibly humbling; to be trusted with someone's hopes and dreams for their future AND the trials of their past is an amazing feeling. Even more humbling, is when those job seekers are willing to share their emotional journey with a room of 150 strangers, like at our April 18 Steps to Success Luncheon.



Audience members listened intently to Holly, who shared not only the medical hardships that have resulted in her struggle to find work, but also the gift of her wonderful singing voice, when she sang "Climb Every Mountain" from the Sound of Music, a song that reflects how she feels about her own job search journey.

In her comments, Holly reflected on her challenges and how Daily Work is working with her to get what she needs for a secure future, saying:

Daily Work is helping me to find the employment resources that will recognize and utilize the talents and skills I possess, instead of trying to make me fit into a rigid job description that cannot account for the other talents I have to offer.

All shed a tear with Jaye when she shared the numerous challenges she has overcome in the past several years, including the death of her spouse, the loss of her job of 17 years due to a change in company ownership, the foreclosure of her home, and the diagnosis of cancer. Despite those challenges, Jaye started a new part-time job in March, saying:

It feels really good to be working again... Right now, I am learning how to use a many-lined phone system and I greet and help visitors find what they need. I also help with processing and paying bills and faxing important documents. I make appointments at the beauty salon for residents, I keep the coffee flowing and pretty soon, I will start working on the computer and learning new skills there.

Daily Work has a lot in common with our job seekers--we're gaining new skills and becoming a better and more effective resource for job seekers. We are also progressing to become a financially sustainable organization, and the Steps to Success Luncheon was a giant leap forward in the pursuit of these goals.

With incredible gratitude, it is our honor to tell you that we exceeded our goal! Right now, we have received just over \$27,000 in pledges and contributions. Even more exciting, the five-year total is just over \$84,000, assuring us \$15,000 in pledges for each of the next four years!



People like you are the reason Daily Work is on the road to financial sustainability. With your continued support, we will overcome our trials including the need for more people power, better technology, and more visibility.

Our dream is to be a powerful and effective resource for every job seeker that needs us. Job seekers like Abera, who had planned to speak at the luncheon, but had to cancel because he couldn't get the day off of work. Take a moment to listen to Abera tell you, in his own words, what a difference Daily Work....and his new job, make in his life. To listen now, visit our website at www.Daily-Work.org

Do you want to do more? If you have an idea or resource to share that will help us overcome our challenges around people power, technology, or visibility, please call Julie at [\(651\) 204-3043](tel:6512043043) or e-mail her at julie@daily-work.org.

If you need a specific idea, we are seeking someone to provide one-to-one tutoring in how to use the computer at our New Brighton location; and we are almost half way to our goal of raising an additional \$10k to upgrade our technology this summer. To donate, visit <http://givemn.razoo.com/story/Daily-Work>

And Then There Were Three... MN only Third State to Ban the Box

Now there is hope for the handful of job seekers we have at Daily Work who struggle to get a job because of past mistakes they made, which have resulted in an arrest. Anyone who has ever filled out a job application has seen the question; "Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a crime?" Most of the population is able to check the "No" box, move on with the application, and eventually get called in for an interview. But the job seekers who have to check the "Yes" box know that 99 percent of the time they won't be getting a call for an interview because of that one question on their application.

On April 20, the "Ban the Box" bill was passed in the Minnesota state senate. The bill states that private employers must not ask about an applicants' criminal history until the job seeker is granted an interview. The bill is designed to give those who have made positive changes in their lives a chance to explain themselves to the employer, and give them a chance to show their qualifications for the job before the employer can approve or deny them based on their past. This bill could affect up to 20 percent of MN job seekers. On May 8, the Minnesota house approved the bill 107 to 26, and if Governor Dayton passes the bill (which he is assumed to do so), "Ban the Box" will go into effect in January 2014. This will make Minnesota only the third state to pass this legislation.

To learn more about how "Ban the Box" helps job seekers at Daily Work, and Minnesotans in general, please visit Maria Patrias' blog: <http://daily-work.org/?p=1030>

Departing Interns Reflect on Their Time with Daily Work

Bryssa reflects:

In the two hundred hours I spent at Daily Work since October, I have conducted over eighty, one-on-one appointments with job seekers, fine-tuned nearly twenty resumes, and connected jobs eekers with community resources. Most importantly, I witnessed, first hand, the impact Daily Work has as an agency in transforming lives.

Daily Work is an agency that establishes a working relationship with each job seeker to provide ongoing support during any kind of hardship they may be facing. When a job seeker walks into the Daily Work office, they are greeted with a smile and by first name. The hardworking, tight-knit community of staff, volunteers and interns at Daily Work work together to brainstorm effective ways to better help each job seeker.

Not an hour passed during those two hundred internship hours that I did not feel inspired by the job seekers I met. I feel deeply honored to have been able to be a part of their journey in finding employment and continue to encourage them through all of their successes along the way.

If you wish to read Sarah's and Ashley's reflection, [please visit Bryssa's blog:](#)

Do you want to do more or have an experience like Bryssa, Ashley, or Sarah? If you have an idea or resource to share that will help us overcome our challenges around people power, technology, or visibility, please call Julie at [\(651\) 204-3043](tel:6512043043) or e-mail her at julie@daily-work.org.