

Get a Job by Giving Back

With so many people competing for the same jobs, especially in this economy, it is not surprising that it takes time to find the best opportunities for employment. This is an opportune time to remember that there are many organizations in the tri county area that could use your help. All you need to do is ask and be prepared to step in and do what needs to be done.

Volunteering is as good for your resume as it is for your psyche. Job seekers are finding that they're more likely to get hired if they can show they've kept their skills honed while being unemployed. Companies are impressed by candidates who volunteer for work that helps them to expand their skills. For example, if you serve as treasurer for a nonprofit organization, it will tell the person reviewing your qualifications that, in addition to your past experience, you have expanded business skills and abilities. Volunteer work and accomplishments on your resume also shows that you've been spending your time between jobs productively.

Volunteering expands your network of contacts and it can be a great way to catch the attention of local business leaders who often serve as executives for nonprofit organizations. What a great way not only to meet people working in local businesses but to be able to actually work with them and show them who you are and what you can do.

Finally, there's the mental boost that comes from giving back. Not only does it give you a sense of purpose, but working with and helping others — especially people in tough situations — gives you a sense of confidence and perspective that can come across in a big way during job interviews. Confidence can be a great consequence of volunteering and it reminds you of your ability to do constructive things.

To find out about volunteer opportunities you can contact the Tri County United Way at 793-3136 or Jeff Stewart, RSVP, who is seeking volunteers over the age of 55 at 743-9158.

