

December 1, 2010

Dear JVS Friend,

Everyday, the career experts at JVS Cincinnati Career Network hear stories from their clients about the devastation that has touched every aspect of their family's lives:

- People who once donated to food pantries are now going to the same food pantries for groceries;
- People who once lived comfortable lives are now losing their homes to foreclosure.
- People who once wore fashionable clothing have had to accept donations of business attire just to look presentable during job interviews.

With the unemployment rate near 10 percent, too many members of our community have had their lives reset. Some must cobble together several jobs to pay their heating bills or put gas in their car. Families who for generations had considered themselves middle-class are suffering from painful financial hardships for the first time.

Consider this: Even before the recession, the 2008 Cincinnati Jewish Community Study reported that more than 20 percent of Jewish households could not make ends meet, a figure that's undoubtedly higher today.

Our career consultants have repeatedly heard their clients tell stories of desperation. "Losing a job is like losing a loved one," Career Consultant Kim Slaton says. "There's a mourning stage they go through." Job loss affects their hope and confidence, causing them to wonder about their value to society.

But the Cincinnati Career Network is making a difference. **With the support of our career consultants, more than 90 of our clients have found jobs this year.**

We help our clients organize their job searches, develop effective resumes and cover letters, use the Internet to research career possibilities and sharpen interviewing and networking skills. We also provide job leads.

Our clients have let us know they're grateful:

- *"After four months of unemployment, I'm employed now and I want you to know that this is in great part due to the career consultants with the JVS Cincinnati Career Network. Looking for employment is difficult, especially in a weak economic environment. I'm employed today because they were at my side, supporting me every step of the way."*

- *“Thank you so much for everything you have done for me over the past year. I literally would not have gotten through all of this if it wasn’t for JVS.”*

Comments such as those make us proud that we have been able to help so many people, proud that we’ve helped to stabilize so many lives. **But the demand for our services continues to grow, to nearly 300 cases so far in 2010. Never has the need for our services been greater. We must do more.**


To serve more people, we’ve supplemented our traditional one-on-one career coaching. We’re offering more group programming, including workshops. And we’re using more volunteers to help with mock interviews and professional networking.

We’re committed to helping people rebuild their lives whether they’re unemployed or underemployed, entry-level workers or top executives. We help people help themselves by providing the skills, knowledge and resources to put them on the path to work. But we’re stretched too thin.

You can help. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to JVS by using the enclosed envelope or going to www.jvscinti.org/make-a-donation.

With your contribution to our only fund-raising appeal this year, we will be able to help more individuals rebuild their lives.

Sincerely,



Joel S. Brant
Board Chair



Peter M. Bloch
President and CEO

P.S. **Please respond by December 31.** The people we help with your generous donation could be your friends, neighbors or relatives.