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EMPLOYING THE HOMELESS DURING CHALLENGING ECONOMIC TIMES

PHOENIX, November 20, 2008 – St. Joseph the Worker, an employment service dedicated to the city's homeless, asks the community to remember those hit the hardest by the current economy – and offer help through employment opportunities.

Ways to help:

- Send your company's job openings to info@sjwjobs.org or fax to 602-258-4940
- Donate basic resources, such as professional clothing (especially men's dress shoes and pants) or put on a drive for needed items
- Volunteer to assist clients with resumes and practice interviews
- Make a tax-deductible contribution at www.sjwjobs.org
- Learn more about these and other opportunities at www.sjwjobs.org or call 602-417-9854



Executive Director, Amy Caffarello said: "We need the support of the local community now more than ever. While donations are needed to meet the increased demand for St. Joseph the Worker's services, employment leads for our clients are equally necessary. Competition in the job market is as high as it's ever been."

"We are seeing more and more individuals that have lost their jobs and their homes due to downsizing, layoffs or other reductions in the workforce. St. Joseph the Worker encounters skilled and professional workers from all industries. **We ask local companies to send us their job leads so we can send motivated, qualified workers their way,**" said Executive Director, Amy Caffarello.



Clients job-search in St. Joseph the Worker's office in central Phoenix.

Fiscal Year Results for St. Joseph the Worker:

- 334 individuals secured full-time, sustainable employment as a result of St. Joseph the Worker services.
- \$10.82 per hour was the average starting pay rate for these clients.
- 45% of jobs secured offered benefits.
- 923 individuals received job/life skills education.
 - 229 of those individuals received job/life skills education in Maricopa County Jail through St. Joseph the Worker's outreach to the incarcerated.

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“We are grateful for the community support that allows St. Joseph the Worker to help others help themselves. Each of these successful clients is now a dedicated employee that is able to contribute right back to the community” said Amy Caffarello, Executive Director.

From the Clients: Clients offered their feedback in an anonymous survey after completing St. Joseph the Worker’s Job/Life Skills class:

- “It was quite an inspiration on my outlook to search for employment and have resources to help me since I’ve been homeless. I was very overwhelmed before.”
- “I learned that there is so much help and opportunity out there that I have no reason to be scared. “
- “Really insightful, good tips, made me feel more at ease about talking about myself.”
- “I feel more confident now about applications and interviews.”
- “The instructor made me feel like a real person.”
- “I was looking for some hope and I can feel it now.”

About St. Joseph the Worker:

St. Joseph the Worker is a privately funded, non-profit organization in Phoenix whose mission is to assist homeless, low-income and other disadvantaged individuals in their efforts to become self-sufficient through permanent, full-time employment. St. Joseph the Worker is a managing agency of the Human Services Campus and offers volunteer opportunities and tours of the facility daily. More information is at www.sjwjobs.org.

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To learn more about St. Joseph the Worker, and to get involved in their work, please visit www.sjwjobs.org or call 602-417-9854.

***High resolution photos available upon request.*