



Employment Heals Tempe

St. Joseph the Worker's (SJW) sole mission is to help homeless, low-income, and other disadvantaged individuals become self-sufficient through quality employment – a vital mission with enormous benefits to our community.

SJW understands the dire circumstances facing the approximately 40,745 adults and children experienced homelessness in Arizona" (Arizona Department of Economic Security's *Homelessness in Arizona-Annual Report 2016*). Additionally, 16.4% of Arizonans – over 1.14 million people – are living in poverty, including an even greater percentage of Tempe residents - more than 39,400 (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/tempecityarizona,AZ,US/IPE120216>). Compounding their challenges, homeless and at-risk job-seekers often face daunting issues that include no telephone, mailing address, or internet access, limited work experience, few current skills, health and credit struggles, insufficient funds for employment prerequisites, and little or no access to child care or transportation.

Through its professional employment specialists and volunteers, SJW's comprehensive and proven program provides motivated job-seekers with internet and phone access, an address, job leads, employer referrals, one-on-one job searching support, résumé development, mock interviews, a computer lab, professional clothing, bus passes, work boots, uniforms, safety equipment, tools, certification fees, and equally important, the encouragement and emotional support to succeed. During the year ending June 30, 2017, 3,883 participants in our program got jobs!

Community collaboration is vital to the success of our clients. We have 83 partner agencies serving 111 locations across Maricopa County. SJW provides services valley-wide on its Mobile Success Unit (MSU) - a converted 39-foot recreational vehicle and Arizona's first mobile job development office. The MSU allows SJW to provide quality employment services and resources anywhere in the community.

One of the agency's successful MSU projects, *Employment Heals Tempe*, has provided workforce development resources and support to an average of 150 disadvantaged job-seekers annually through the referrals and on-site MSU visits at the Tempe Public Library. However, these MSU services were recently suspended due solely to a lack of funding – a very unfortunate outcome considering the success of the program and the ongoing need in Tempe.

SJW's funding request from the Tempe Diablos is two-fold. First, it will resume the *Employment Heals Tempe* project at the Tempe Public Library that transforms lives through employment. Secondly, SJW will use the Tempe Diablos support to leverage additional funding within the Tempe community. SJW's cost to operate the MSU is \$500 per trip, the requested \$5,000 will fund 10 trips to the Tempe Public Library - and significantly benefit the Tempe community.