



The Need

- Today over 40 million people live in poverty. There are many reasons why people are in poverty, but the main reason is that they simply are not working. (Joint Center of Poverty Research)
- 67% of ex-offenders commit another crime and go back to prison within three years of their release. An unemployed ex-offender is 3-5 times more likely to go back to prison than an employed ex-offender. (Bureau of Justice)
- \$10.9 billion per year is spent on homelessness programs in the US (2010)
- Without work, poverty increases, crime increases, recidivism increases, homelessness increases, depression increases, domestic violence increases, divorce increases, and suicide increases. Nothing can attack one's dignity, value, and purpose like a lack of work.

Jobs for Life Classes

Jobs for Life provides the platform for a community to provide a powerful solution to poverty, unemployment, and underemployment in their communities. Staff and volunteers are trained to use the curriculum and support of the *Jobs for Life* organization to implement a 16 session training class. Each session is two hours in length and covers topics such as:

My value as an employee

Understanding my life journey

Overcoming roadblocks to success

Taking responsibility for my actions

Perseverance and positive attitude

Succeeding through adversity

Integrity in the workplace

Conflict resolution

Excelling on the job

Effective communication skills

Job search techniques

Building a resume and developing a vocational plan

Managing employer expectations

Proper customer satisfaction

In addition to the training, every *Jobs for Life* student has a Champion – a mentor – who provides the student friendship and support both during and after the training and as the student is placed and begins a job. With this training and support system, churches and organizations provide a reliable, trustworthy workforce to meet the pressing employment needs of companies in their area.

Through this training, men and women develop their character and become connected to a community of support to help them obtain far more than just a job. They experience a life filled with confidence, self-control, coaching, learning, and faith.

The Difference – Community and Business Partnerships

One of the unique components of *Jobs for Life* that makes it successful is the dedication to building relationships with area businesses and introducing them to the benefits of hiring *Jobs for Life* participants. A *Jobs for Life* staff person is dedicated to a process that identifies business partners and job openings, and connects and builds community relationships. *Jobs for Life* acknowledges that turnover costs for employers is costly and the *Jobs for Life* commitment is to train and walk alongside the participant (employee) for at least one year to provide success and on-going support for continued employment.

Outcomes of the *Jobs for Life* Strategy

The results of the *Jobs for Life* strategy are extraordinary and possibly unprecedented. While most broad scale initiatives designed to help the jobless find work and emerge from poverty have a follow-on success rate (those who are still at work after a year) of only about 20%, studies show that *Jobs for Life* can show results that are just the opposite. After one full year, between 70-80% of those who commit to follow the *Jobs for Life* strategy are still employed, with stable, growing lives.

Over the years, *Jobs for Life* has learned the following:

- The number one quality companies look for in their employees is character, and yet many of our neighbors who struggle finding and keeping employment do not exhibit the character or have access to community support systems to help them experience success in the marketplace.
- Churches and community-based organizations are an extraordinary resource to help people learn character and become connected to a community of support allowing them to achieve not only success at work but also success at life.

The *Jobs for Life* model provides support, accountability, growth, and discipleship for everyone involved.

