



April 7, 2006

Friends:

Have you ever stopped to consider the importance of a paying job...

- What has it meant to your family?
- What has it meant to your own sense of purpose and well being?
- What part does your own internal development play in being successful in the job?

One of the biggest challenges our youth face is being ready for the expectations they will encounter when taking a job.

Manny, our full-time volunteer Job Developer (who started in December 2005), is helping young people develop their God-given potential through the avenue of successful employment. Recently retired from a successful business career, he is networking with over 50 organizations to find jobs for our youth.

Manny says that **it isn't difficult finding jobs** in the community. **The challenge is in overcoming barriers** created by difficult life situations so that our young people are ready and can be successful in their employment. Many of our youth that Manny is helping have not graduated from high school.

Manny knows first-hand the challenges our youth are facing. The son of a migrant worker, Manny grew up poor in a barrio between Tempe and Mesa. His life changed dramatically, however. In 1961 he joined the military. During that time he developed many life skills including a **strong work ethic**. As he traveled out of his smaller world, Manny says that he developed a new and **larger "worldview."** He explains that "It's important to experience new environments – to see more of the world." Throughout his business career, he developed leaders. Manny says that **"You really need one person to help you – to believe in you."**

<p>APRIL EVENTS</p> <p>Sr. High Magic Mountain Trip Friday, April 7th - Sunday April 9th</p> <p>Mentor Appreciation Dinner Thursday, April 20th</p> <p>Kids Life Volunteer Appreciation Banquet Saturday, April 29th</p> <p>FAMILY NEWS</p> <p>105 golfers had a great day at the Golf Classic. Lots of new friends attended. Thanks to this great day, 65 boys and girls will be able to attend camp at Canyon Meadows and other summer events will be funded.</p>
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He believes strongly in mentors and sees himself as a role model. He is here to encourage young men and women not to limit themselves and to give them hope for their futures.

To accomplish this, Manny conducts a Job Readiness Class where young people investigate their job aptitudes and explore their vocational dreams. He also helps them develop an action plan with concrete steps to take with a realistic timeline. They also learn how to complete a job application and prepare a resume. Students participate in mock interviews in which the role play is video-taped – Manny acts as the employer, coaching them to understand what the employer is seeking and thinking. Manny is also working with younger boys and girls – catching them at an earlier age so that they will know what skills are required and what to anticipate.



We want to introduce you to **Danny**, one of our inspiring young men. Danny has been working with Manny and is making significant progress **internally in his life** as well as in **successful employment**.

For the past year, Danny has thrived in the Jeremiah Project. Danny says that he was always in some sort of trouble. He had a temper and would often find himself in conflict with others. He considered school a joke until he met NM's G.E.D. teacher, Katie Wenzel. Danny said "Even though I came to class drunk, she made me read three chapters of "A Boy Named It" and do a page of math. I liked that she cared about me and didn't turn me away. It was different than in the past." He also didn't like going to church, but began to notice the way that people there helped out and made a difference. "They didn't look down on me."

Soon Danny responded and gave his heart and mind to God. He knows he is changing but can't do it all at once. He is reading his Bible and taking new steps everyday. Danny says now he is learning to think twice before he makes choices. **"I think with my heart – not just my mind. I am beginning to take a new approach to my life.** I want to be a better man than my father."



Danny with Manuela, his Jeremiah Project Case Worker

Danny then became acquainted with Manny who is helping him to move toward the dignity of employment. Under Manny's caring mentorship, Danny learned how to "ace" an interview, to understand how crucial a positive attitude is in job success, and to be aware of the expectations an employer would have of him.

God is faithful! Danny was hired by Ashley Furniture and has worked there as a Shipping and Receiving Clerk for the past two months.



Working together – Manny and Danny

Now, Danny's short-term goal is do a good job for his employer and to earn enough money to purchase a vehicle which he will need to achieve his long-term vocational goal. Danny worked briefly in construction and eventually wants to return to be a well-paid pipe-layer.

We remember that God created us each of us uniquely. Manny reminds all of our youth not to lose their culture as they develop their careers.

He says *"We live in America. Take the valuable things that American culture has to offer, but never forget who you are and your family."*

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17 NIV

In the transforming name of Jesus,


Kit Danley


Richard Speck