



Weekly eWheel for the

Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor



Michigan, USA • District 6360 • Chartered 1918

JANUARY 30, 2017

A cold and snowy day for our last meeting in January but luckily the sun was shining! You have to enjoy those days when we have them during this gray time of year.

JOBS FOR LIFE...SUPPORT THAT LASTS A LIFETIME



Our program for the day included two guest speakers from Mosaic Christian Community Development Association--Executive Director, Ric Pawloski and Jobs for Life Program Director, Princella Stringer.

The Jobs for Life program actually received a grant this year from the St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Rotary Club Foundation. Ric and Princella joined us to share more information about the program as well as opportunities for community members to get involved.

Jobs for Life is a national program that is supported locally by Mosaic. It is an 8-week program that provides job training experience, mentorship and life skills coaching to participants throughout the Southwest Michigan community. Topics covered in class sessions include career planning, resume building, mock interviewing,

presentation and communication skills, and employer perspectives.

Those who participate in Jobs for Life are typically placed within one of Mosaic's social enterprises to gain hands-on work experience and are also given a mentor to coach them throughout the program.

When the program launched in 2014, 10 students were served. Last year, 145 students went through the program. Last year, they also received a grant from the Michigan Department of Corrections that makes Jobs for Life a condition of release. As the program grows, the support needed to facilitate the program also grows. There's a cost of \$1,000 for each student who participates in the program but the need is also from a human resource perspective.

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IMPORTANT DATES

- ❖ 2/6 Meeting: Ann Cardon, The Educational System (Good and Bad)
- ❖ 2/13 Meeting: Lee Scherwitz, Youth Exchange Program
- ❖ 2/14: Centennial Committee Meeting at 12:00 PM at Villa Environmental Consultants
- ❖ 2/20 Meeting: Matt Cooper, The Service Members Civil Relief Act
- ❖ 3/20: Celebrate Rotary!

Rotary

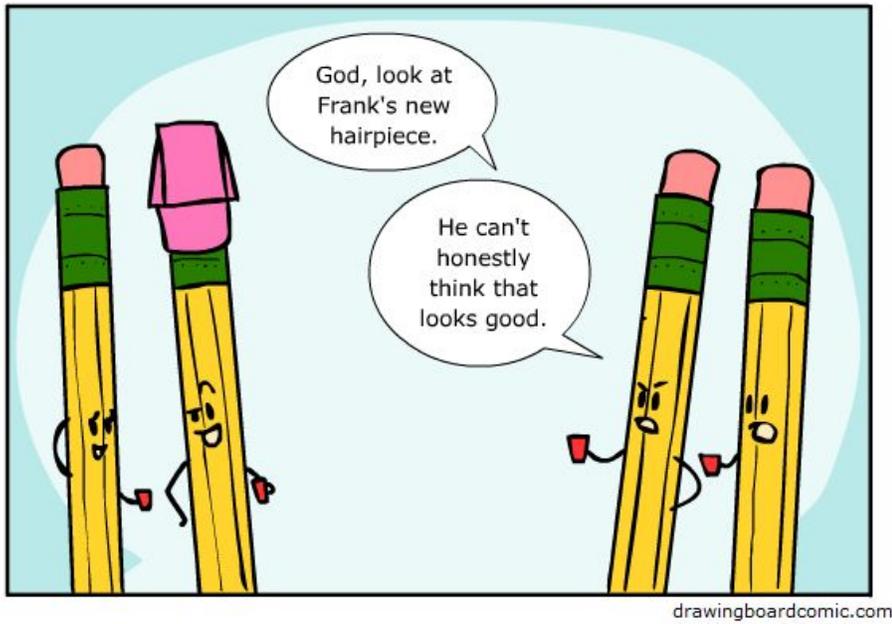


THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do

- ① Is it the **TRUTH**?
- ② Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- ③ Will it build **GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- ④ Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

JOKE OF THE WEEK



ROTARIANS WITH GUESTS

Bob Judd brought Laurie Schmidt

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

The Centennial Steering Committee will be hosting an open meeting at Rick Villa's office (Villa Environmental Consultants at 215 Colfax). If you are interested in attending, please send Rick a quick email at rvilla@villaenv.com so he can plan accordingly. The meeting is at noon and you are welcome to bring your own lunch. If you are interested in helping with the logistics of the event, you can also let Rick know and he will include you in email updates about the planning progress.

CELEBRATE ROTARY: PRESIDENTS' NIGHT TO END POLIO

The date has been set for Celebrate Rotary - 3/20/2017! Please mark your calendars and plan to attend as the event will take place in lieu of our Monday meeting that day. Please also consider [sponsoring the event](#) so that we can continue to offer this event free of charge and spread awareness of the work of the club in the community.



JOBS FOR LIFE (CONTINUED)

Of all students who come to the Jobs for Life program, 80% have been incarcerated. Disconnection is a huge barrier to advancement. Think about how much society and technology have changed over the past 10 years.

Many of the Jobs for Life students have experienced poverty all their life. They lack perspective about the qualities that are necessary to be a valuable employee.

Mentorship is a huge component of the program. Jobs for Life currently has a roster of 63 mentors but they do experiences challenges with availability so with their current class, only 15 of those 63 mentors are active.

Through mentorship, the Jobs for Life program provides an element of support that the students have lacked their whole life. It has less to do with matching age, interest or industry between mentor and mentee and more to do with just meeting another human being eye-to-eye and relating and connecting the same way you would a neighbor.

Mentors receive training in two sessions prior to the start of the class. Mentors are then paired up with a student at the beginning of the program at “Meet your Mentor” night. The mentor/student decide when they are both available to meet on a weekly basis for an hour over the next eight weeks. Some mentors and students do stay connected after the class has ended but this is not a requirement of the volunteer commitment.

Being a mentor in the Jobs for Life program is not about providing financial support or transportation for the students. The program supports a “hand up” not “hand out” mentality.

There are other one-time volunteer opportunities within the Jobs for Life program as well. One of these is participating in the Employee Panel Day. At this event, business leaders share their expectations of their employees and the students have an opportunity to express their hopes and goals and address the challenges they face.



Program success is measured in a few ways although some things are easier to track than others. They measure how tools are being received and implemented by students. They track the student’s attendance in class, number of assignments completed, etc...but more telling is the way students open up and expand upon their personal goals. They also use a pre and post class survey to capture student perspective on the experience.

Beyond the classroom, for those employed within the Mosaic social enterprises, they have an employee passport to evaluate their soft skill development. There’s also a student tracker that follows all students who have gone through the program. Do they have an ID, SSN card, drivers license, etc... It tracks their employment history both within the Mosaic social enterprise and with outside employment. When possible, they connect with outside employers to find out if they’ve gotten promotions or raises. Ric admits that keeping track of students once they’ve graduated from the program can be difficult but they do the best they can to keep in touch.

You can visit the [Mosaic website](#) for more information about the Jobs for Life program as well as their other work in the community. If you are interested in volunteering with Jobs for Life, you can [complete their online application here](#).

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE eWHEEL?

Your weekly email is brought to you by Emily Hosinski, Jennifer VanBeck, Brandi Smith-Gordon and Lisa Cripps-Downey with photography by Jen Cole. If you have an announcement, a bit of news you wish to share, or a story you wish to see featured, please write to RotarySJBH@gmail.com.

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