



*St. Patrick Center*  
Building Permanent, Positive, Change.

OUR mission

St. Patrick Center provides opportunities for self-sufficiency and dignity to persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Individuals achieve permanent, positive changes in their lives through affordable housing, sound mental health, employment and financial stability.

## **HOMELESS EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (HEP) A St. Patrick Center Employment & Training Program**

St. Patrick Center's Homeless Employment Program (HEP) functions as both a job-training provider and an employment-search agency with no fee charged to the employer or client. HEP is available to homeless people who are living on the streets or in the shelter system. Clients must be substance-free for at least 30 days before becoming part of the program.

An individual can enter the program in several ways:

- A St. Patrick Center intake specialist refers the client to HEP;
- A staff member from one of our other programs refers the client for services; or
- Another agency sends a client to us for services.

When a client is referred to HEP, he or she meets with an employment specialist who conducts an initial interview with the client to identify his/her general employment needs and goals. The client is then enrolled in the next job-readiness class at St. Patrick Center. Upon completion of the class, the client continues to work with an employment specialist to identify barriers to employment and create a plan to address these barriers.

Job-readiness classes teach clients how to find and retain jobs. During these three-hour classes, which are held for four consecutive days within a one-week period, clients learn how to structure job searches, prepare resumes, properly interview and conduct themselves appropriately on the job. Clients receive a stipend for class attendance.

When HEP clients are ready to start looking for work, they are allowed to use St. Patrick Center's phones, copiers, fax machines, stationery, and postage for job applications. Employment specialists also provide HEP clients with interview and work clothing, as well as protective gear and tools needed for construction and other types of jobs.

HEP employment specialists provide job-seeking clients with referrals to employers throughout St. Louis, along with bus passes to get to and from job interviews. St. Patrick Center maintains relationships with hundreds of businesses that have hired our clients. We also network with St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment, the local One-Stop Career Center.

Once clients are placed in permanent employment, employment specialists follow up with employers to make sure clients maintain their jobs. This occurs at 30, 60, and 90 days after employment and again at six months and one year after placement. Employment specialists assist clients and employers with problems that threaten job security.

When HEP clients begin to receive paychecks, St. Patrick Center provides one-time payments of \$500 to landlords, enabling clients to establish permanent housing.

In Fiscal Year 2011, the Homeless Employment Program helped 200 clients find and retain full-time employment and placed 87 into housing.

**Other St. Patrick Center Employment & Training Programs:** The BEGIN New Venture Center; The BEGIN Training & Education Center; Building Employment Skills for Tomorrow (BEST); General Employment; Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP); Job Experience Training (JET); McMurphy's Grill; Project HERO; Veterans GO! Green.

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