



# Newsbrief

*Promoting the Abilities of Individuals Seeking Employment and Greater Participation in Community Life*

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## **Success Story**

**Kevin Smith** wears his bright vest with pride. He said, "I love it, yeah." Because he knows just how hard he pushed himself to get it. He explained "I was just trying to get over regular hurdles, you know, and stumbling blocks and all that." Smith has a developmental disability and lived most of his life with his parents or guardian. When he moved back to Columbia in 2016, he decided that he wanted more. Bryon White, Kevin's Advisor at the time, said, "He wanted an apartment of his own. He also wanted, you know, an identity through employment." Jayne Young, Vocational Rehabilitation, said, "Kevin wanted something to do with his time. He wants to be independent, and yet he also wants to socialize and be around other people." Vocational Rehab steered Kevin toward Job Point where he met White, who said. "When Kevin first came into Job Point my job was to facilitate and schedule job trials." Of Job Point's help, Kevin said, "doing resumes, you know doing cover letters, doing mock interviews." White helped Kevin navigate online applications and find reliable transportation through the bus system. He explained, "We are gradually removing ourselves from the picture so individuals can function and thrive on their own." White says above everything else, it was Kevin's drive that landed him a job at Walmart. Smith said, "My job title is cart associate. Like bringing carts in, doing carry outs." White expounded, "The most important attribute that Kevin brought to the table was that positive, can-do attitude. He didn't allow things to stand in his way. You know, he identified the barrier and then helped us explore ways we could navigate around that." He is pretty good at navigating on the job too, and his new employer noticed. His supervisor, Lisa Wilson said, "His willingness to help, always willing to help wherever we need him. We kind of stretch him thin; pulling him in all different directions and that's a challenge in itself, to be able to multitask." His favorite part? Helping the customers. "Hey girl!" he says, "How you doing?" And a feeling of purpose. Smith explained, "I look forward to getting up in the morning, because I have a job to come to. Most people can't say that." "He's an all around guy," stated Wilson. A grateful all around guy who's moving on up. Smith said, "I mean if it wasn't for Job Point, I wouldn't have this job. I'd be sitting at home still looking at four walls." *Kevin Smith, Job Point Award of Excellence Winner; Story by Emily Spain, KOMU*



**We welcome** our newest team members: Danielle Bohm, Jacob Dulany, Catherine Ligon, Rebecca Melton, Carrington Morse, and Angela Vanderlinden, Employment Consultants; Thomas Lutz, Education Instructor. And Mitch Schiller, Fall Intern.



**Veterans United**  
Foundation

**We graciously thank** Veterans United Foundation for their generous contributions towards the purchase of our building.

**Mark your calendar** for our third annual Company Feud event on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. One team sponsorship is still available! Contact Erica Pefferman at [erica@businesstimescompany.com](mailto:erica@businesstimescompany.com) for a team, or [purchase tables and tickets online](#).



### ***River Relief Program 2018***

A collaboration between Missouri River Relief, Youthbuild and AmeriCorps saw students from all over Missouri, including St. Louis, Kansas City and Columbia, coming together and giving back to their communities. Beyond the stewardship opportunity to help clean the Missouri River of litter and debris, the youth were exposed to new and exciting experiences. They spoke with an ornithologist, looked through microscopes at the smallest members of the river ecosystem, and even had the opportunity to discuss water conservation with experts in the field. Job Point continues to make service learning not only a benefit to society, but to the students themselves, who experience inspiration and gain newfound perspective on the world around them. In

an annual conference held August 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> in Boston, AmeriCorps awarded Job Point with an Impact Award for its outstanding program and positive impact on wildlife and education. Only three other programs nationwide received this acknowledgment.

### ***Building Houses & Building Character***

Job Point recently completed and sold a house at 105 Lynn Street, in partnership with the City of Columbia Community Development Department through the Community Land Trust. The home features solar panels and other green technologies. Construction has begun at a new housing construction project on Oak Street in Columbia. At a rate of around two houses per year, Youthbuild and Trades students work together to make an impact. Job Point prides itself on its focus of service learning, not simply community service, and this is one amazing example of that value in action.



Housing projects expose students to leadership experience, project management and even future career opportunities. Through participation, students are certified in the classroom through National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), a nationally recognized course in the basic principles of construction. As they give back to their communities, participants gain valuable and practical experience to take with them into future endeavors.

### ***Summer Work Experience at Shelter Insurance Companies and YMCA***

Shelter Insurance Companies hosted high school students for the fourth consecutive summer in partnership with Job Point, Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and area high schools. Five students performed a variety of work, including basic maintenance, washing and detailing corporate vehicles, landscaping in the beautiful Shelter Gardens, filing in the records department, sorting and packaging in the printing department, and stocking vending machines. New this year, the Randolph Area YMCA hired



high school students for this 6-week Summer Work Experience Program. At YMCA students assisted with reception, janitorial, maintenance, landscaping, cleaning fitness equipment, laundry, and child care. The program is designed and targeted at incoming seniors to provide them with job-related skills. Students are assigned paid positions. They are also privy to interactive and engaging seminars infused with relevant information about important topics in the workforce. These topics include but are not limited to: Networking, Teamwork, Communication, Harassment, and Problem Solving. Students and their family members were invited to attend a celebration at program conclusion in honor of their achievements.

### ***Job Works Expansion***

The City of Columbia Social Services Department has approved additional funding for our Job Works program. The program will now offer career assessment, career exploration, job readiness training, job placement, personal development and follow-up/coaching services. Adult job seekers ages 19+ will be served with FREE classes offered twice per month.

## *Diversity and Inclusion Training*

Job Point has received funding from Heart of Missouri United Way to allow employees to take part in diversity and inclusion training on October 10! Employees will be taught methods and mannerisms that will allow them to serve the public in a more efficient manner going forward, one that recognizes individual differences, social economic ties and varying skillsets. It is well known in the business world that diverse teams are more efficient and successful, and Job Point is no different. This will be a valuable opportunity to further enhance experiences for persons served, and for staff to gain practical skills to utilize when serving individuals both present and future. Job Point is extremely pleased that due to United Way's generosity, we will be able to take proactive steps towards creating the most inviting, inclusive and beneficial environment possible. The grant also allows staff from other not-for profit organizations to participate in the training. Contact Nancy Silver at 573-777-1515 to make a reservation, as spots are limited.

## *Upcoming Job Point Programs*

**Job Works** – September 24-28, October 8-12, October 22-26, November 5-9, November 19-23 (Thanksgiving week - no class), December 3-7, December 10-21. **Highway/Heavy Construction, Intermediate Construction Trades Program (ITCP) and Office Technology** – open entry. Start dates for the next **Certified Nursing Assistant** and **Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning** classes are to be pending. Scholarships may be available. Contact Tania Cook at 573-777-1524.

**Job Point** fulfills its mission through the support of Missouri businesses. We acknowledge our new or renewed employer partnerships in our service areas: **CENTRAL:** ATR Towing, Best Western, Candlelight Lodge, Chick-Fil-A, City of Columbia Power & Light, Comfort Crew, Dollar Tree, Fulton Medical Center, IMKO, Insomnia Cookies, Interstate Photography, KMIZ, Lily Pad Laundry, Quaker Oats, Show Me Diesel, Taco Bell, TBS Heating & Air Conditioning, Waffle House, and Walmart on West Broadway. **WEST:** Atkins (Boonville), Unlimited Opportunities, and Walmart (Boonville). **NORTH:** DSV, Goodwill, Job Finders and Levering Regional Health Care (Hannibal).

## *We Thank the Following for Giving Generously*

Boone Electric Community Trust  
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Isle of Capri Casino & Hotel  
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MFA Foundation  
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The Ruckus Group  
Schneider Electric Foundation  
Shelter Insurance Companies  
Turn the Page Child Development Center  
University of Missouri Healthcare  
Veterans United Foundation  
Veterans United Home Loans  
Mark and Tina Workman

*Job Point is mid-Missouri's premier employment center.  
Since 1965, we have been linking people and jobs by providing career planning  
and job placement assistance. We specialize in preparing individuals to enter the workforce  
while meeting a critical need of the business community.*



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Accredited by CARF, the Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission, and an equal opportunity organization committed to a diverse workplace, Job Point is a member organization of Missouri Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (MARF).  
Auxiliary aides and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

[www.jobpoint.org](http://www.jobpoint.org)

