

Career Development Service Success Story



Bill Galik

Most folks in their late 70's are content as retirees. That's not the case with Bill Galik. Goodwill Employment Consultant MaryJane Nickerson first heard about Bill from his wife, a former Goodwill employee. "She told he was just sitting around the house because he couldn't find a job."

When Bill first came to Goodwill, he was 76 years old, and had discovered that the life of a quiet retiree wasn't for him. He wanted to be around people. "He's a people person," says Nickerson. "He's very outgoing, witty, and a real charmer."

Despite having worked his entire life, Bill was having trouble finding a job as a senior citizen. "He said everyone was discriminating against him because of his age," Nickerson explains. "He was willing to do just about anything: bagging groceries, bussing tables, washing dishes, but he said nobody wanted to hire him."

In addition to his age, Bill faced another obstacle in his hunt for post-retirement work: Illiteracy. He was unable to fill out a job application without assistance.

When Nickerson met with Bill, she discovered that he had experience working at grocery stores, and encouraged him to apply at Publix in Englewood. She accompanied him to his job interview, and helped him fill out his job application. "I had to read everything to him, to make sure that he understood what he was signing," says Nickerson. "When we had his interview, I let Bill do most of the talking and he just sold himself. He was hired on the spot!"

Three years later, Bill is a happy 79-year-old, still bagging groceries at Publix, with no intentions of leaving any time soon. His manager tells Goodwill that they receive regular compliments about Bill's great customer service.

"He just loves helping people, wheeling their carts to their cars, and charming the customers," says Nickerson.

"I think it keeps him young!"



"Building Lives that Work"

September 2009