



Thanks to You, Kenneth Sees Blue Skies Ahead

Your Generosity Sparks Hope and Opportunity for Job Seekers

On a rainy Tuesday morning, Kenneth Smith grabs an umbrella and heads out the door of his North Side home.

Fortunately, it's a short walk to the corner where any one of a half-dozen buses will take him to his destination of choice. It's just a matter of timing. Kenneth likes to arrive at CLP-Downtown & Business just as the doors are opening at 8:30 am. That way, he knows he can spend about an hour there before he has to catch another bus to Robinson Township to start his 10 am shift as a cashier.

Kenneth makes his daily visits to the Library because he is constantly striving to improve his

skills and expand his personal knowledge. "As a kid, I would just go exploring and always end up at the Library," he recalls. "It makes me feel good to come here. Everybody knows me, and I'm always learning things."

Lately, the 64-year-old has been immersing himself in the local job market. He's discovered that looking for work while he's still working is just like having another full-time job. In addition to his visits to the downtown library, he's been putting in long hours fine tuning his résumé and honing his interviewing skills with the help of library staff.

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(Thanks to You continued)

**Because of you,
life-long learners like
Kenneth have access
to resources that can
improve their job skills
and opportunities for
meaningful work.**

He often checks out a laptop and logs onto Lynda.com, an online learning platform that offers free courses on a variety of subjects. To date, his efforts have earned him more than 12 certifications from the site in topics ranging from PC security to PowerPoint.

Thanks to your support, he is able to access all of these services and resources for free.

“I’m hoping to find a job in tech support,” Kenneth says. “I used to work as a computer operator back in the ’90s but, then I got laid off. Now, everything is more high tech and I’ve had to up my skill level.”

As his level of expertise has increased, so has the number of job interviews he’s landed. But the ultimate goal of finding that new job has remained elusive. “Sometimes it’s frustrating,” Kenneth admits. “But even if you don’t get the job, you learn something.”

Ever the optimist, Smith says, “You can learn a lot of things without spending a lot of money. The Library makes getting an education possible.” ■

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