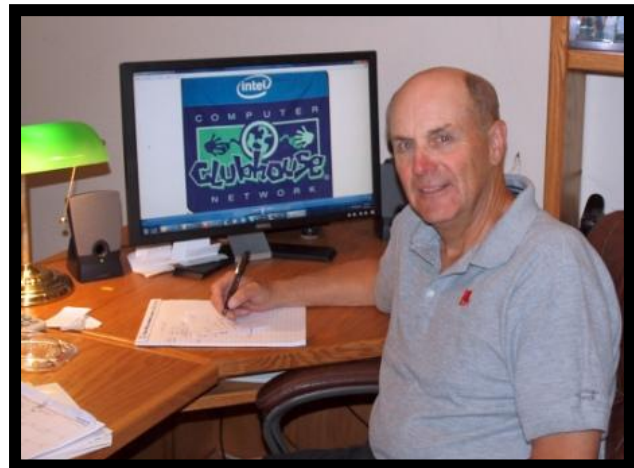


Volunteer Spotlight – August 2010 Peter Fusselman

There are many reasons that staff, clients and volunteers at Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services (SFBFS) love a volunteer like Peter Fusselman. Peter's varied experiences with sales, marketing and teaching make him perfectly suited for his unique role in the Adult Education. Peter began volunteering in 2009 helping clients produce and polish professional looking resumes. Since the decline in the job market, employers have become increasingly selective and demanding more from applicants they hire. A major obstacle of many SFBFS clients suddenly displaced from their jobs is navigating a hiring gauntlet that has gotten leaner, meaner and digitalized. In addition to limited access to online information and communication, many clients are increasingly feeling out of place and overwhelmed in an environment with an applicant to job ratio of 5:1.

Peter approach is one of enthusiasm and belief in the individuals. As a volunteer, Peter greets clients in the Adult Education program every week, listening to their fears surrounding the idea of re-entering the job force. Clients at SFBFS come from fascinating career fields and backgrounds, each optimistic about surviving the unemployment crisis and getting on with their lives. It is not uncommon to see Peter trading stories and laughing with clients in his 'office' (a pair of computers in his regular spot in the program). In the midst of his effective yet simple writing process, the magic happens when he allows each client to appreciate the full extent of their years of working experience, valuable skill sets and giving them the much deserved credit for all they have accomplished. Peter connects with clients possessing extremely challenging circumstances, but allows them to realize how much they still have to offer in their work ethic and natural intellect. Peter explains that he draws his satisfaction from, "watching people come in and after a session, seeing people realize their self worth and value, in the form of a resume and eventually a job." His personal philosophy of giving a hand-up not hand out aligns perfectly with Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services' mission of helping move people towards self-sufficiency and hopes that clients will one day become involved as volunteers.



Peter brings to the Adult Education program a greatly appreciated service and clients sing his praises for his diligence and effectiveness in hammering out a sparkling resume. Peter is also working with staff towards expanding the resume writing services offered to clients and becoming involved in other aspects of SFBFS' computer classes. Thank you Peter for all of your time and dedication to SFBFS.