

THE DELTA STRATEGY, Through its community-based poverty coalition, is helping create pathways to economic self-sufficiency

Successes

He was a convicted felon. Butterball Farms gave him a chance. Through a strong desire to succeed and personal initiative, he took advantage of on-site employee programs and services. Over four years he grew into a leadership position. Now he's a valuable employee and an admired role model.

She lived on the streets. Through hard work she moved from the streets, into a job and now she's in a leadership position. She's a conscientious, detail-oriented model employee who owns her own home. Through her own effort and, with the help and support of her employer, she has pride in her home, her accomplishments... in her ability to succeed.

There's more...

Butterball Farms is a 'first step employer', giving people an opportunity to move from welfare to an entry-level job where they can build skills and earn some income.

Butterball Farms doesn't stop there. Through a partnership with Cascade Engineering, the company works with qualified employees to build their skills over 18-months, then recommends them for employment to Cascade Engineering. The opportunity to 'move on' to improved wages and better job opportunities recognizes a Butterball Farms employee's desire to improve economically.



CREATING PATHWAYS

When barriers are removed, success follows.

Our community is fortunate to have social service agencies committed to impacting the personal and financial lives of men and women. Through their efforts people 'on the fringe' of our community are experiencing personal growth and making fresh starts.

Their individual success is testimony to personal commitment, hard work and courage. These people...and the social service agencies assisting them...are making positive contributions to the fabric of our community.

Serving the disenfranchised.

In the heart of our city, Heartside Ministry serves the community's disenfranchised.

50 - 60% of the population they serve is mentally ill, some on medication. The mentally ill want to get off welfare. But sometimes, Medicaid won't cover the cost of needed medications. No money, no meds. Without medication, even 'high functioning' persons find it difficult to get or keep a job, putting many individuals economically further and further behind.

Many of Heartside's neighbors are considered 'working poor' because of poor work histories, prison records, or histories of substance abuse. Lack of skills, poor self-esteem, no sense of hope. These folks need help in securing even the basics.

Solutions

Heartside Ministry provides a variety of support and enrichment programs and services. 85-90% of Heartside's population takes advantage of offerings from basic computer classes, GED, English as a Second Language and adult literacy to pastoral care and professional counseling. They're connecting to people who care, systems that work, and opportunities to move up and out of their current situations.

Successes

IV drugs, alcoholism, abusive and violent relationships. Not a pretty picture. A neighborhood resident for more than 14 years, she's been clean and sober for 7, out of violent relationships for 6. She's been the full-time receptionist for Heartside



Ministries for six years now. This single mother of three owns her own home and has 'neighborhood credibility.' Through the programs and caring support of Heartside Ministry and a lot of courage and hard work of her own, she's turned her life around.

Barb Pekich, Executive Director/Pastor at Heartside, says, "She is an excellent and inspirational role model."

He's '40ish' with a sporadic work history.

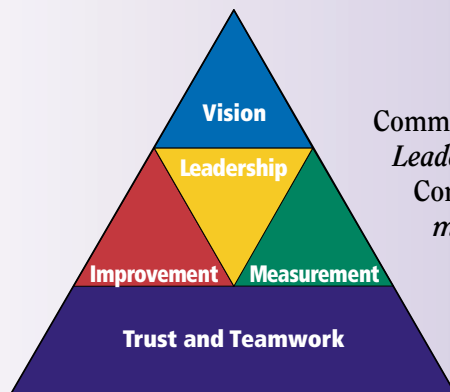
He became close to fellow workers during a bird house-making project. Seemed to be blossoming. Then he vanished for two years. Maybe the emotional intimacy became too much. When he reappeared at Heartside he was able to verbalize why he left. After six weeks of professional counseling at Heartside, he got a job and continued with counseling. He's been on that same job, now, for four years. Before this his longest time at one job was six months. His future is looking much brighter.



Many Hearts, Many Minds, One Future.

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Community *vision* tells us where we want to be.

Leadership throughout the community guides us there.

Continuous *improvement* and problem-solving enables *measurable* improvement and gets us closer to our vision.

And most important, the *trust and teamwork* that come from real collaboration are the foundation on which The Delta Strategy process is built.