

## Irvington Resume Writing Seminar

In 2006, the Social Action Committee began its collaboration with Irvington by conducting a resume writing seminar in the local Irvington library. Our members would literally write the resume of anyone who showed up and also teach them how to use the Internet to search for a job.

Each night we would present a short seminar on how to use various employment websites. We then split up to draft resumes and cover letters for each of the people who attended.

We had about ten people attend our first workshop. One of the more interesting aspects of this initiative was the range of backgrounds of these Irvington residents. There were middle level executives who had been laid off from telecommunications companies; teachers; and even a physician who had just immigrated to this country.

We performed three weekly sessions. At the conclusion, everyone was given multiple hard copies of the resumes and the individualized cover letters our members had drafted for them. They were also each given a diskette so they could edit those documents later, as circumstances warranted.

The word got out among our congregation that we were engaged in something interesting in Irvington. Members of our congregation not actively involved with the Social Action Committee started gravitating to assist. Our impromptu resume writing seminar started to become augmented in unanticipated directions.

The number of Irvington residents attending kept growing. By the last session, we had about fifteen people. They even decided to create their own employment support group that kept on meeting on its own after our seminar concluded.



UCS resume writing workshop held at the Irvington, NJ Library in 2006.



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