

ARIZONA TEENS GET HELP FINDING WORK

St. Joseph the Worker Launches App to Revolutionize the Job-Finding Experience

(Phoenix, AZ, November 25, 2021) Today, St. Joseph the Worker launched a new digital initiative to help teenagers in Arizona find employment and learn essential job search skills. The Teen Workforce Initiative or TWI provides job search resources and the ability to connect with screened job opportunities that are safe and suitable for young adults. TWI offers a built-in reward system to help motivate users to keep developing job skills even after they get a job.

Entering the workforce for the first time can be stressful and the lack of skills and experience can make it harder for teens to secure a job. Many teens lack a mentor to teach them the best practices of job-hunting, like how to build an effective resume, how to submit applications, interview and how to recognize a potentially unsafe working environment. This is especially true for teens from low-income families who may also be missing crucial resources such as professional attire or reliable transportation.

With the Teen Workforce Initiative app, teens now have access to the guidance and resources necessary to navigate the process of finding employment. Job openings are posted on the application after St. Joseph the Worker confirms the authenticity and safety of the hiring company. Through TWI, young adults can connect to the working world by streamlining the search and application process and providing resources to make them better candidates. TWI also encourages teens to participate in the workforce with a reward system for reaching activity levels and milestones. The Initiative eliminates some of the frustrations and obstacles associated with searching for a first job.

“The Teen Workforce Initiative application provides Arizona teens with the resources they need to be fruitful in their job search,” said Alberto Rivera from St. Joseph the Worker. “We are educating them on the soft skills necessary to be a successful applicant and engage them in a way that even makes me want to use the app. We can already see a reduction in local teen unemployment.”

Teens download the application to any smartphone and set up an account and create a profile. They can start by watching video content that explains the job search process or jump right in with the guided resume builder tool and create a professional resume by answering prompts. Users can apply for pre-screened jobs, sign up for job fairs, training sessions and request resources all in the app. Each completed activity earns the user points that can be redeemed at local businesses.

“The Teen Workforce Initiative App helped me find a job that I love. I had no idea how to make a resume, but I was able to use their resume-builder to make a really good one,” said Paola Garcia, 17 years old from Phoenix. “I also earned enough points studying interview questions to get a gift card to my favorite coffee shop!”

For more information on the Teen Workforce Initiative app, please visit www.TWI.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) - TWI

1. What are we building and why?
 - a. The Teen Workforce Initiative is an application to provide teens with necessary resources and opportunities for employment, as well as develop essential skills for the workforce. It is being built because young people are in need of these resources in order to successfully move through the application process.
2. What does it do?
 - a. This app aims to make the job hunt process simpler. The app increases visibility of job opportunities, provides tools to increase skills, helps create artifacts like resumes and cover letters and does it in a fun and rewarding manner.
3. How much does the app cost to use?
 - a. The Teen Workforce Initiative application is free to use. There is no cost to download or fees for use.
4. What do I need to know about technology to use this app?
 - a. As long as you can work a smartphone, that's virtually all you need to know. It is only accessible as a mobile app, so no computer knowledge is necessary. In addition, the app is designed to be user friendly.
5. How is this project being funded?
 - a. The Teen Workforce Initiative is being funded by St Joseph the Worker.
6. What languages will this be available in?
 - a. The Teen Workforce Initiative App will be available in English and Spanish to start.
7. Who will own, operate, and maintain this solution?
 - a. St. Joseph the Worker, a local non-profit organization will own, operate, and maintain the app.
8. What does this need to be interoperable with?
 - a. This app needs to be interoperable with phone operating systems such as Apple OS and Android.
9. Can I access the Teen Workforce Initiative through a web page instead of an application?
 - a. At the moment, it is only available in the application format.
10. What age range is this app appropriate for?
 - a. The application is appropriate for anybody 16 years of age or older. While the name is Teen Workforce Initiative, it is not just for the kids!
11. What states is this available in?

- a. At the moment, the application is specifically designed for Arizona, but it can be customized for other states as well.