

Caritas

Quarterly

A SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL CHARITIES • WWW.CARITASUTAH.COM



/'karita:s/ (noun) love of humankind, charity

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Volume 4 Issue 2



Utah's Giving Spirit is Needed Now More Than Ever

We have seen many heartwarming stories the past few months of how people have helped one another to pull together and overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. Though we may be wary of what the future holds, we are encouraged by the compassion, hard work, humanity and giving spirit that people have shown throughout the globe and here at home.



Douglas L. DeFries
CEO
Bank of Utah

Utah has been ranked as one of the most giving states in America. One reason is because the act of giving is a long-time tradition of the people who have lived here. I believe the generous people in our state will continue this tradition by reaching out and helping others in need on a regular basis, and not just in times of crisis.

You and your company most likely have allocated funds to give to your favorite charities and community causes each year. Bank of Utah has sponsored an annual Warm Bodies, Warm Souls coat drive in winter, food drives in the spring and, of course, made cash donations to schools and charities. We encourage our employees to serve on nonprofit boards, provide countless hours of service and get actively involved in our banking communities. I know most Utah business community members do similar things, but sadly this year, some businesses are cutting back on their donation budgets in order to counter a downturn in business.

At the same time, the pandemic has intensified the need for us to step up and help people and organizations in our community. Our lives, our economic security and our ability to maintain relationships with family and friends have been turned upside down. It will take an even bigger giving spirit to help bring life back to "normal" for people who have lost their jobs and homes, for struggling businesses, for schools and community and nonprofit organizations.

I'm sure you are aware many charities have canceled their 2020 fundraisers such as golf tournaments, breakfasts, galas, award dinners, etc. Many are hosting digital fundraisers and looking at new ways to generate income so they may continue to do their good works in the community. Now is the time for us all to dig a little deeper to support them. Because without their good works, infants and children will go without food, families may have no place to sleep, youth will be without enrichment programs, low-

income seniors will live in isolation, fewer college students will receive scholarships and so forth.

Now is the time to roll up our sleeves and get even more involved, because if we want our communities to thrive, we need to increase our support of our neighbors, families, friends and communities. When we lift others, we are lifted as well. Service helps us become better people. When we know our neighbors, our neighborhoods become safer. People who serve others have better health and a sense of purpose and pride.

Now is the time to find both traditional and non-traditional ways to serve. Your business may be struggling from the pandemic, but you can still make a difference by donating labor to a cause. Bountiful Food Pantry, for example, relies on volunteers for 75 percent to 80 percent of its labor. Or you could get creative like the owners of Apple Spice Junction, who got sponsors to buy boxed lunches to give to hard-working first responders. One of our own branch managers showed her spirit of giving by donating \$500 of her own money to sponsor boxed lunches for a day — a win-win for the business and the community.

Business leaders have an obligation and a huge opportunity right now to thoroughly assess the needs of the community and determine where they can make a difference. Recently communities have focused on helping struggling restaurants stay afloat by incentivizing people to order more takeout food. Some businesses have switched their production from making alcoholic beverages to making alcohol-based disinfectants, and from making band uniforms to making face masks. These creative actions have hopefully kept these businesses going, while filling important community needs during the pandemic.

We applaud all Utahns for their service to the community and today ask you to get even more involved in the greater community. Start small. Help a friend. Reach out to people you don't know in your own neighborhood who may be in need. Make it a goal to give consistently during the current crisis and beyond. Read this issue of *Caritas* and discover the needs of organizations and the causes in your community and make a commitment to help them. Make generous monetary contributions to these charities where you can and keep Utah's giving spirit alive. This is our opportunity to come together to make life better for all of us. Together, we are Utah.

Douglas L. DeFries is president and CEO of Bank of Utah and a board member of BOU Bancorp Inc. He is the immediate past chair of the Utah Bankers Association.



Find them ... and rescue them

There are an estimated 40 million enslaved individuals around the world — that's one in every 200 people — and that number includes an estimated 2 million children. Human trafficking is the second-largest global criminal enterprise, behind only the illegal drug trade. Photo courtesy of Operation Underground Railroad.

There are more than 40 million enslaved people around the world today — that's one in every 200 global citizens. Included in that number are 2 million children who are being trafficked for sex or labor. And the mission of Operation Underground Railroad (OUR) is to find them and rescue them.

"This is a dark topic and our mission is to shine a light on this epidemic of child sex trafficking," said Jerry Gowen, executive director of OUR.

Operation Underground was founded in 2013 by Tim Ballard, a former special agent with the Department of Homeland Security's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and an undercover operative on the U.S. Sex Tourism Jump Team. Ballard founded OUR to act as a private-sector partner to local law enforcement agencies in the United States and abroad that don't always have the staff or specialized technology to aggressively pursue child sex trafficking cases.

"We don't do anything on our own without the

blessing of law enforcement," Gowen said. "But we can be more agile and really help them when they hit brick walls."

OUR has active partnerships with law enforcement agencies in 24 countries and 25 states, including Utah, which have resulted in 3,521 rescued victims and 1,950 offenders arrested in the past seven years. That includes 35 rescues and 24 arrests already in 2020.

"Each year we are scaling and getting more and more efficient at this," Gowen said.

The first step in Operation Underground partnerships is a meeting between OUR and representatives from the country or state looking for help. For OUR, this initial meeting is an opportunity to ask questions and get a sense of what systems and resources are in place, what gaps need to be filled and what laws and regulations will govern the mission.

In the early days of OUR, most law enforcement agencies needed help with sting operations, Gowen said. Residents of the U.S. and Canada are the biggest consumers of child pornography and lots of Westerners travel abroad to purchase children. OUR would send in a team of operators to pose as buyers or set up a "trap house." The whole transaction would be videotaped and once money exchanged hands, local law enforcement would come in and make an arrest.

These days, however, most of the work OUR does is providing funding and training for advanced technology and forensic tools that are outside the normal operating budget of a local law enforcement agency. For example, OUR recently helped an Arizona police department acquire a mobile forensic lab that allows evidence to be collected and ana-

lyzed at the scene of a trafficking crime.

That kind of technology is more important than ever as sex trafficking and child exploitation increasingly moves online. In many states, including Utah, one of OUR's biggest partnerships is with the local division of Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC). It takes work and training to stay one step ahead of tech-savvy perpetrators, Gowen said.

"We make sure they're never lacking in what they need to aggressively pursue these traffickers online," Gowen said. "As children are online through chatting and gaming, they are being target-

ed. This is very real."

And it's real right here in Utah. Operation Underground Railroad has been involved in 247 arrests and 296 rescues in the state, Gowen said. His own neighbor had a teen-

age daughter who met someone posing as a teenager online. The girl met the man, who had traveled from New Mexico, at a park near her house and disappeared with him. Luckily, Gowen said, she was recovered quickly.

"This is a very real problem here in Utah," he said. "People think trafficking only happens in Third World countries and that's just not true. More than half of the work we're doing happens here domestically."

In addition to supporting rescue operations, OUR's work also includes aftercare support for survivors of child sex trafficking. OUR vets aftercare organizations in all the areas where they operate and provides financial assistance and other resources to

And it's real right here in Utah. Operation Underground Railroad has been involved in 247 arrests and 296 rescues in the state.



WE EXIST TO RESCUE CHILDREN FROM SEX TRAFFICKING

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help those organizations accomplish their mission of supporting survivors. Aftercare can include physical rehabilitation, therapy, education and job training, legal support and, where possible and safe, family reunification. The care is ongoing, with no time limit, Gowen said. To date, 7,000 survivors have received aftercare support through Operation Underground Railroad.

“They need a place to go to get all their basic necessities met, but also to get whatever else they need to integrate into society and have the same experiences you and I do,” Gowen said.

Operation Underground Railroad executes its mission with a \$10 million annual budget, 16 full-time employees and a handful of part-time staff. OUR also maintains a database of contract “operators” — usually former law enforcement officers with undercover experience — who can be called in for specific missions.

“It’s in their blood,” Gowen said. “They do this with their free time, with their vacation time. Especially anything that involves kids, they want to be part of the solution that much more.”

This contract model allows OUR

to be agile, flexible and responsive to its partners’ needs, and it also helps keep overhead costs low. Eighty-seven cents of every dollar donated to OUR goes directly to rescue missions and aftercare programs. And all that money comes from donations and corporate sponsorships; OUR receives no public funding, Gowen said. Forty percent of the annual budget comes from individual donors called “abolitionists.”

“They truly are helping end child sex slavery,” Gowen said.

Human trafficking is the second largest criminal enterprise in the world, behind only the illegal drug trade and it can — and does — happen everywhere. But one place human trafficking is particularly prevalent is in the global supply chain. That fact was top of mind for Utah-based essential oils company doTerra when it opened for business in 2012.

“DoTerra has understood from the beginning that the oils we use need to be sourced directly,” said Missy Larsen, vice president of philanthropy and community impact. “We need to know the communities where we are working and trust our suppliers.”

The average global supply chain has six layers, Larsen said, including an average of two “hidden corporations” that can’t be traced and are often staffed with individuals who are being trafficked. To help com-

bat this, doTerra created “co-impact sourcing areas” in the 42 nations where they source botanicals and oils. They do humanitarian projects and hire local employees whom they pay year-round, not just seasonally. When companies act ethically and support local economies through fair wages and business practices, the incentive for all types of human trafficking goes away, Larsen said.

“Sex trafficking and human trafficking is a money-maker,” she said. “When you take away that need to make money, you get it at the source.”

Through the Healing Hands Foundation, doTerra also provides financial support to Operation Underground Railroad to help stop human trafficking at the source and eliminate trafficked labor from their supply chain.

“It was a very natural fit for doTerra and Operation Underground Railroad to become partners,” Larsen said. “We are working together from the ground up. OUR has a big heart and the ability to go into places where no one else wants to go to save kids from the horror of sex trafficking.”

Through the Healing Hands Foundation, doTerra has helped fund a new water system at an aftercare facility in Thailand, a mobile forensic

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The Operation Underground Railroad Process

1. Assess the feasibility of rescue. This must take into account the willingness of local authorities to work with us since we not only want to save the children but arrest the perpetrators as well. We also want everything to be done legally and above board.
2. Research the location, the children and the background of those who are running the sex ring. We also search for vetted care facilities that will take the children once they are rescued and not only give them food and shelter but rehabilitate them as well. In some instances the children are able to return to their families.
3. Design a strategy for rescuing the children. This is the logistical part of the process. As former CIA, Navy Seals, Special Agents, etc., we have a very unique skill set to make this happen safely, efficiently and legally. We provide local law enforcement training to support and sustain anti-trafficking operations.
4. Take action. Obviously this is the most dangerous part of the operation but one well worth taking. In some instances we go undercover and arrange to “buy” a child as if we were a customer. After the purchase, we move in with the police, arrest those responsible and rescue the children. In other cases, we may act as a “client” looking for favors, etc. Again, we work with local authorities to make sure everything is done to protect the children and that the perpetrators are arrested.
5. Recover the children. These children’s lives will never be the same. Their innocence has been stolen and they need help to readjust to a better world. Therapy can be provided as well as food and shelter at a pre-screened facility.
6. Arrest, try, and convict the perpetrators. We follow this process every step of the way to make sure they don’t traffic children again. In many cases the perpetrators were sex slaves and victims of trafficking themselves and know no better way to survive. We hope to break this cycle.



Operation Underground Railroad provides financial assistance and other resources to vetted aftercare providers all over the world who help survivors with physical and emotional rehabilitation, education and vocational training, legal proceedings and, when safe and possible, family reunification. To date 7,000 survivors have been helped by aftercare organizations supported by Operation Underground Railroad. There is no time limit on aftercare services funded by Operation Underground Railroad, and the services are not just available to survivors who have been rescued by OUR. Any child receiving rehabilitation at any aftercare location supported by OUR receives the benefit of their services and resources. “They all become our kids,” said executive director Jerry Gowen. Photo courtesy of Operation Underground Railroad.

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.
 *If under the age of 18, force, fraud, or coercion does not need to be present.^[1]

40.3 MILLION modern-day slaves

estimated by the International Labour Organization.^[2]



1 in 4 slavery victims are children.



71% of slavery victims are women and girls.

Trafficking in persons is now the **third most profitable business for organized crime**, behind drugs and arms. It is also the fastest growing form of international crime.^{[3][4]}



600,000 to 800,000 people

are trafficked across international borders every year, according to the U.S. State Department. **80% are female and half are children.**^[7]



2 MILLION

children, the majority of them girls, are sexually exploited in the multibillion-dollar commercial sex industry.^[5]



US\$32 billion

estimated total illicit profits produced in one year by trafficked forced labourers.^[6]



148 goods

identified from 75 countries made by forced and child labor.^[7]

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE UNITED STATES

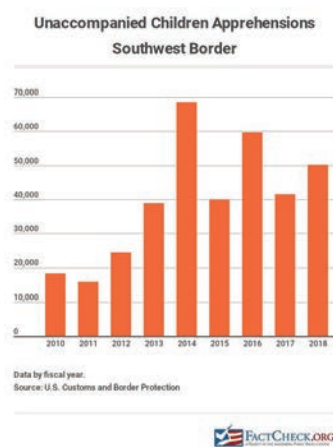
80%

of documented cases of human trafficking, from a UN study, are for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

The United States was listed as the most common destination for victims.^[8]

over **30,000**

Reported in 2018, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has averaged over 30,000 apprehensions of unaccompanied minors from 2010 to 2018 along the southern border with Mexico.^[9]



Between 14,500 and 17,500 people are trafficked into the United States each year.^[10]



California has three of the FBI's 13 highest child sex trafficking areas in the nation: Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego.^[11]

1 in 7

of the nearly 25,000 runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in 2017, were likely victims of child sex trafficking.^[12]



OPERATION UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

ourrescue.org | @ourrescue



Tim Ballard, a former special agent with the Department of Homeland Security's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and an undercover operative with the U.S. Sex Tourism Jump Team, founded Operation Underground Railroad in 2013 to act as a private-sector partner for law enforcement agencies working to rescue children from sex trafficking and exploitation. To date, Operation Underground Railroad has assisted in the rescue of 3,521 survivors and the arrest of 1,950 perpetrators. Photo courtesy of Operation Underground Railroad.

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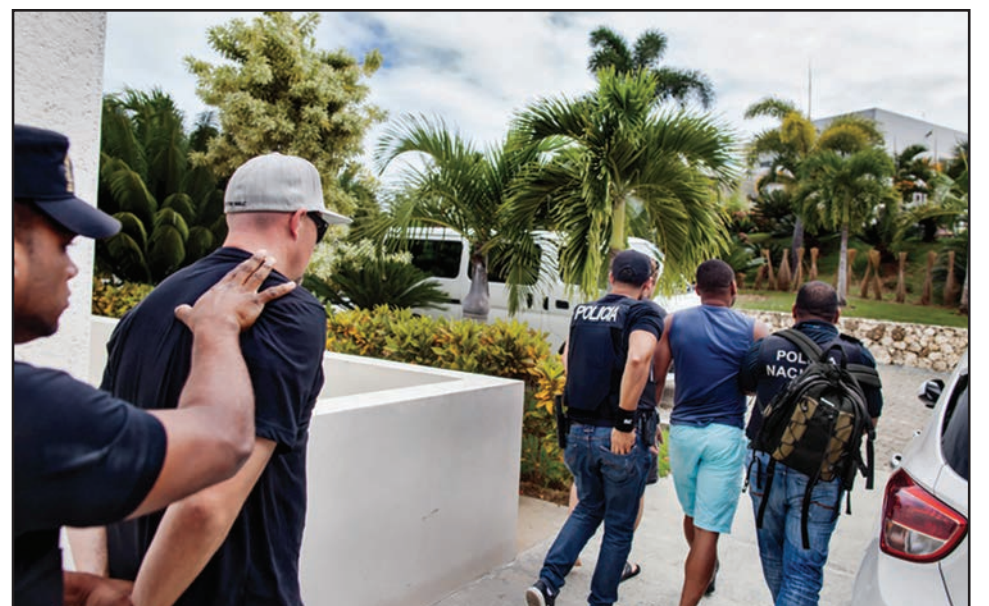
lab for an Arizona police department and specialized canines that can sniff out electronic evidence such as thumb drives. Money from the foundation also financed an investigation into a brothel in Cambodia where six survivors were rescued and the owner was arrested. From 2016 through the middle of 2018, doTerra donated \$3.5 million to anti-trafficking partners, Larsen said.

"Understanding humanity is at the base of what doTerra is and what we stand for," Larsen said. "Helping people live through abundance is how we'll change the world."

Changing the world for survivors of child sex trafficking also requires

communities and individuals everywhere to get educated and stop turning a blind eye just because it's an uncomfortable topic, Gowen said. The third prong of Operation Underground Railroad's approach to eliminating child sex trafficking is to shine a light on the epidemic through information and education. The OUR website provides free training resources for adults and kids about how to recognize the signs of human trafficking and what to do if you identify a case.

"We know it's a hard thing to talk about and a lot to digest, but education keeps kids safe," Gowen said. "I hope people will talk about this and have it become a little more of our day-to-day conversation. We can all use our personal networks to shine the light. That's what will help us solve this problem."



Operation Underground Railroad maintains a roster of "operators" who travel to other countries posing as buyers for trafficked children. Westerners, particularly Americans and Canadians, are the highest consumers of child pornography and represent the vast majority of people who travel abroad to buy children. Once the transaction is complete, local law enforcement officials make the arrests. Photo courtesy of Operation Underground Railroad.

GIVING STUDENTS A HELPFUL HAND THROUGH HANDS-ON LEARNING

Cigna applauds the outstanding efforts of Junior Achievement of Utah on behalf of students throughout the state. We're honored to work with Junior Achievement on programs including their experiential learning site, JA City, where students build such skills as critical thinking, collaboration and problem solving. Together, we're creating a stronger, healthier future.



Together, all the way.®



People Helping People

Full-time, meaningful employment through education, job training and mentoring

For 15 years, Kathryn Christiansen was a single mom, struggling to raise and support her kids on her own. As she worked to start a business and become self-sufficient, she decided she wanted to help other single moms do the same thing. And the best place to do that was with People Helping People.

Founded nearly 30 years ago, People Helping People is a privately funded nonprofit that helps low-income women and single mothers get the education, job training and mentoring they need to find fulfilling, full-time employment that can support their families. Had she

been introduced to the program as a participant rather than a volunteer, Christiansen said, it would have been a game-changer.

“This is such a unique environment for women looking for resources and know-how to increase their earning potential,” she said. “Every single woman out there can be self-sufficient.”

People Helping People operates on an annual budget of about \$400,000 and employs five full-time staff members, including Christiansen, who currently serves as program director and is slated to take over the role of executive director. The orga-

nization also relies on the help of 120 volunteers to deliver their training and programs.

Donations from corporations, particularly financial institutions, as well as foundations, corporations and individuals, allow People Helping People to provide all their programs and resources completely free of charge to everyone. The organization operates two offices, one in Salt Lake City and one in Ogden, and serves around 1,000 women every year.

“The common denominator is that every woman who comes through our door has something she wants to be different in her life,” Christiansen

said. “They all have something they want to improve.”

Take Behija, a Bosnian refugee who spoke little English and found herself widowed with two small children to support. With no family nearby to help lighten the load of childcare or expenses, Behija worked long hours at night and on the weekends to scrape by. Then she completed the People Helping People program. Now she has a bachelor’s degree in accounting and has enjoyed stable

CONTINUED on page 9



WORKPLACE PROFESSIONALS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Interested in helping women reach their full earning potential?

Our Employment Program is completely **FREE**.

Call us at 801.583.5300 or send us an email at info@phputah.org

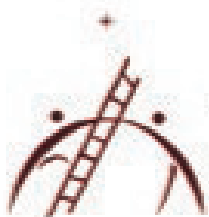
We need help with:

Employment Coaches

Mentors

Workshop Facilitators

Community Outreach

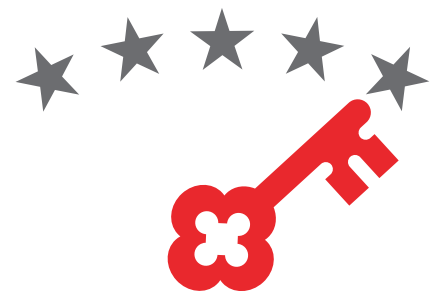


People Helping People

Strengthening Families through Successful Employment

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We're grateful for all you do.



We can't express in just a few words how much we appreciate your dedication. Thanks to your efforts you've made a difference in our community and had a positive effect on us all. For that and more we're grateful.

KeyBank thanks People Helping People for making a difference.



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employment for 12 years, including full benefits and a 401(k). Behija doubled her income, allowing her to get off all public assistance, purchase a home and send her kids to college.

Jenny was a single mom, raising her daughter alone and making minimum wage. She felt hopeless and trapped in poverty. Now she works as a special education teacher in Oregon, a salaried position with benefits. She more than doubled her income, finished a bachelor's degree, enrolled in a master's program and watched her daughter graduate from college with honors.

For Evelyn, taking on the role of primary provider for her three children was too scary, so she worked minimum-wage jobs and relied on public assistance to fill in the gaps. But, through People Helping People, she started to see her own potential and trust her own skills and abilities. Today she is off all public assistance, paid off her debt, bought her dream car and enrolled in classes at Salt Lake Community College. Most importantly, she realized that she is a valuable and capable member of her family and community.

"It's definitely a testament to the program and what we can do for the women we work with," Christiansen said of success stories like these. "With a lot of organizations, very

rarely are you able to see the back end of things and what's being produced from your efforts. But we are able to show that."

There are only three requirements to participate in the People Helping People program. Clients must have a high school diploma, a GED or be working towards one. Clients must be able to read, write, speak and understand English. And they must be able to legally work in the United States. Most clients are referred to the program by a caseworker, family member or friend, Christiansen said, but the number of self-referrals is going up.

The first step for clients interested in People Helping People is a program overview. The women learn what to expect from the program and start to build an employment plan. They also participate in a "barriers workshop," which helps them identify the circumstances and beliefs standing between them and employment that leads to self-sufficiency.

"We want them to identify what they perceive to be their top barriers to employment so we can take care of them and they stop being excuses," Christiansen said.

That change in mindset and self-perception is one of the most amazing parts of People Helping People, said Misti Williams-Valente, who serves on the organization's board of directors. She recounted the story of a client named Crystal, who had eight children to support on her own after

she escaped from polygamy.

"She qualified for assistance and she had a job making \$16 an hour and she thought she was really thriving," Valente said.

Through People Helping People, she was introduced to employers and job opportunities that helped her see she was worth — and capable of — so much more. She took a job with what is now Rio Tinto making \$23 an hour and the company also paid for her to complete a degree in mining engineering.

"The long-term impact of that for her family changed the trajectory of their whole lives," Valente said. "That's powerful for her family and for our community."

Once clients complete the overview and commit to People Helping People, they complete the program in four phases, which each client can take at her own pace.

In Phase 1, clients work with volunteer coaches to identify and match their experience, whether at a job or in their homes, to hard and soft skills that employers look for. Providing job training and assistance from the employer's perspective is one of the key things that sets People Helping People apart from other job training and employment programs. And clients are often surprised to learn how much applicable experience they have.

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One-on-one coaching and peer mentorship are cornerstones of the People Helping People approach. Working together coaches and clients can identify barriers to employment and develop a tailored path to self-sufficiency. "Everyone is different and everyone's version of success is different," said program director Kathryn Christiansen.



People Helping People

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People Helping People holds regular awards events to recognize the accomplishments of clients at every stage of the program, and that recognition is critical said board member Misti Williams Valente. “We often run so fast to get away that we don’t look back and we don’t stop to celebrate,” she said.

FROM page 9

“You see the lightbulb go on when they realize there are things they do every day that are transferrable to the workplace,” Christiansen said.

Coaches and clients also work together to build a work and personal history, identify likes and dislikes and calculate a financial break-even point — a minimum hourly wage each woman has to earn to cover all her expenses with no outside assistance. In Phase 1, clients also start building a master job application and complete a job personality test.

In Phase 2, clients are assigned a mentor and begin actively job searching. Mentors provide help with filling out applications, honing resumes and preparing for interviews. The goal is not to just help women find a job, Christiansen said. It is to help them develop a career mindset.

“Our program is really structured for someone who wants to work full-time and reach self-sufficiency,” she said. “Whether you need to be a primary breadwinner or not, you have to think like one to get ahead.”

Phase 3 is ongoing employment support. This phase includes peer groups that meet monthly to talk about things that come up in

the workplace — for example, how to ask for a raise, how to handle a performance evaluation or how to deal with a difficult boss.

Clients in Phase 4 are called the ambassador group. These are women who are working successfully and continuously; are fully self-sufficient; and can speak to new clients, volunteers, employers or donors about the benefits of the program.

Throughout any phase of the program, clients can also participate in Saturday workshops that cover topics such as employment foundations and flexible thinking. Once a month, women in the People Helping People program have an opportunity to participate in an employer meet-and-greet. People Helping People works with 150 employment partners who share information about their industries, tell clients about different positions in their companies and often hire People Helping People participants.

The combination of volunteers, employer partners and a community of peers is really what makes the program work, said board member Williams-Valente. She started with People Helping People as a volunteer attending events on behalf of her employer but soon wanted to do more.

“I started genuinely falling in love with the concept of the mission. It was very intertwined not only with my profession in recruiting and staffing but also with my personal journey and what I had been through as a single mother myself,” said Williams-Valente, who currently works for Spherion Staffing. “Women need a network and when you see them light up, celebrating their wins, you see

how the tools are working.”

In the wake of current global health conditions, all those tools have moved online, Christiansen said. And while going virtual introduced some initial challenges, it has also opened the program up to more clients and volunteers. Women who couldn’t make it to the office for mentoring appointments because they didn’t have transportation or couldn’t find childcare can now participate online. And volunteers who don’t live near one of the People Helping People offices — including some who live out of state — can now coach and mentor clients virtually.

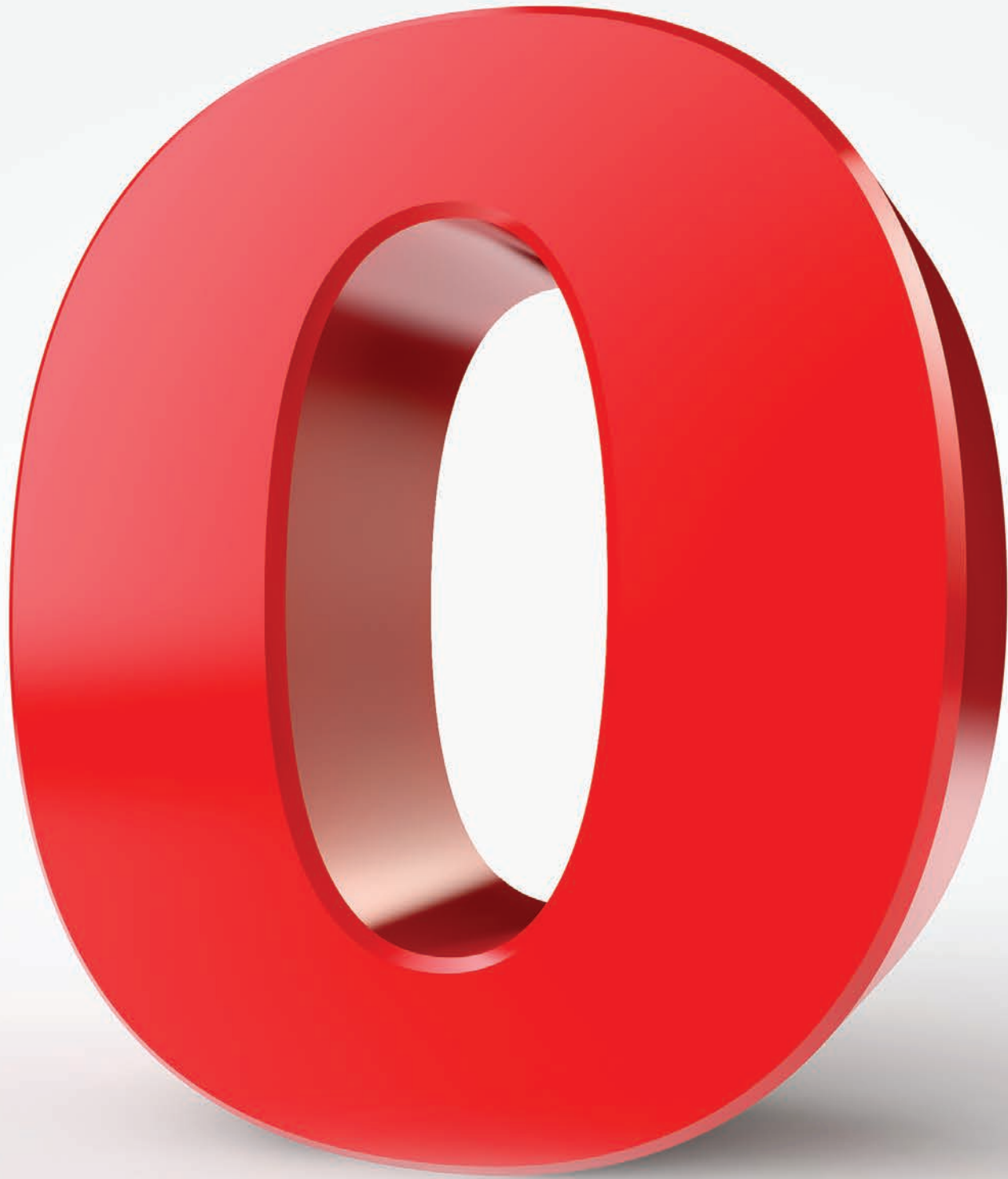
And, even in these uncertain times, employer partners continue to hire People Helping People clients.

“The benefit to them is that they bring these women into their work environment and they see them thrive,” said Williams-Valente. “The synergy between these women wanting to learn and employers giving them the tools to learn is really remarkable.”

But employers are not the only ones to benefit, Christiansen added. In fact, everyone has something to gain from women who can support themselves and their families.

“When mothers do better, their children do better,” she said. “And when children do better, our communities do better.”

More information about donating, volunteering or participating in the programs of People Helping People is available at www.phputah.org.



How much should you pay for checking?

Zero, Zip, Zilch, Nada, Nothing, Ever.

FREE BUSINESS CHECKING is the ideal account for businesses, like yours, that average fewer than 100 transactions per month. Need to deposit cash? No problem – we won't charge you for coin and currency deposits.

- Unlimited deposits and Visa debit card transaction
- 100 ACH debits and checks per month
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MAKING THE GAME AFFORDABLE & ACCESSIBLE

Through its charitable programs, the Utah Golf Foundation strives to grow the game of golf by making it easy for youth and veterans to play

When you love something, you want to share it — from a favorite movie to a family recipe to a killer vacation spot. For Scott Ulbrich, it was golf.

Five years ago, Ulbrich was approached by a former president of the Utah Golf Association about reviving a long-dormant foundation attached to the association. The Utah Golf Association falls under the U.S. Golf Association and is responsible for running the golf tournaments as well as the handicap system in the state. But the association wanted to do more, and bringing back the Utah Golf Foundation was the way to do it.

“Resoundingly, everybody wanted to build something that made the great game of golf accessible to people who wouldn’t otherwise have access to it,” said Ulbrich, who now serves as president of the Utah Golf Foundation’s board of directors.

The first group the Utah Golf Association focused on was kids and teenagers, and they were quickly presented with the perfect opportunity. Soon after starting up again, the foundation was approached by the Northern California Golf Association about joining their Youth on Course program. Through Youth on Course, kids ages 6 to 18 can pay a small membership fee and receive a membership card that allows them to play at any participating golf course for \$5.

There are 31 golf courses in Utah that participate in the Youth on Course program, Ulbrich said, and the Utah Golf

Foundation’s largest expense is reimbursing those courses for the difference between the \$5 and the full green fee. Last year, 4,300 junior members played 25,000 rounds of golf in Utah.

“It’s been very rewarding,” Ulbrich said, noting that the Youth on Course program in Utah started just a few years ago with only 1,000 members. “It’s truly a way to grow the game of golf, and we are growing it.”

For the young people participating in Youth on Course, golf is about more than just the game, said Megan Huntsman, program director for the Utah Golf Foundation. Golf also teaches manners and integrity, it provides an outlet for outdoor recreation and it’s a way to form lifelong relationships.

“I played in a lot of junior golf tournaments where I didn’t know anyone in my group at the start,” Huntsman said. “By the end of the tournament, we had already exchanged numbers, we were friends and I am still friends with some of them today.”

Ulbrich agrees. In golf, he said, you are playing against the course, not other people, so you can easily be friends with your fellow competitors. And golf is a game you can play together for a lifetime.

“I have met some of the most incredible people on the golf course,” he said.





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Each Veterans on Course clinic includes instruction from PGA pros on some of the basics of the game, including chipping, putting and driving. Through the Veterans Club Depot, the Utah Golf Foundation has also given away 100 sets of golf clubs to veterans. Photo courtesy of Utah Golf Foundation.

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The second program sponsored by the Utah Golf Foundation is Veterans on Course, which launched in 2016. The board of directors came into contact with a sports therapist at the Utah Department of Veterans Affairs, Ulbrich said, who was taking veterans out to golf on his own dime.

“We wanted to help so we asked him what those veterans needed,” Ulbrich said. “He said they needed equipment, instruction and other veterans to play with.”

And Veterans on Course was born.

Through Veterans on Course, the Utah Golf Foundation sponsors free clinics where vets get instruction from PGA players on basics such as chipping, putting and driving. After an hour of instruction, participants are divided into groups of four for a nine-hole scramble tournament. Each clinic ends with an awards dinner and a featured speaker.

Last year 750 veterans participated in a total of 13 clinics. And those clinics do more than just provide an opportunity to play some free golf, Ulbrich said. They also provide a chance for active duty military personnel and veterans to spend time in a safe place with other people who

understand what they have experienced.

In the first year of Veterans on Course, a vet came who hadn’t left his house in two and a half years, Ulbrich said. He hasn’t missed a clinic since. Another participant, a former Navy SEAL, was suffering from macular degeneration and fighting an alcohol dependency. He couldn’t see well enough to play on his own, but through Veterans on Course, he was able to play by putting towards the sound of a beeper in the hole. Last year he was well enough for a major surgery that restored his eyesight, Ulbrich said.

“We get veterans from Vietnam all the way through the current conflicts and it has been really heart-warming to see,” he said. “They absolutely have a common bond with other veterans and when they get out on the golf course it doesn’t matter what branch they served in or what conflict they served in. When they’re together they forget about everything because they all know what they all went through. How can you not love the game of golf when it brings people together like that?”

The Utah Golf Foundation has also partnered with First Tee of Utah to create the Veterans Club Depot, which has given away 100 sets of free golf clubs to vets.

“It really helps our mission of making the game of golf accessible,” Ulbrich said of the partnership.

Veterans on Course was also the catalyst for another important partnership, this one between the Utah Golf Foundation and Waste Management of Utah.

“Waste Management of Utah is committed to the communities we serve — these are the same communities our local teams call home,” said Blake Leonelli, public sector representative for Waste Management of Utah. “In addition to the company’s long-standing veteran hiring initiative, Waste Management supports charitable causes that assist our nation’s vets. The Utah Golf Foundation’s Veterans on Course

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Through the Youth on Course program, young people ages 6 to 18 can play nine holes of golf at any participating golf course for just \$5. There are 31 participating golf courses in Utah and last year the program's 4,300 members played a total of 25,000 rounds of golf. Golf teaches young people manners and integrity, and it is also a great chance to form lifelong friendships, said Utah Golf Foundation program director Megan Huntsman. Photo courtesy of Utah Golf Foundation.

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program is an important endeavor to bring local vets together and helps foster a sense of community. Waste Management is pleased to be able to contribute to the success of the program."

That support includes monetary contributions to help put on the Veterans on Course clinics, as well as in-kind donations of Waste Management products and services such as trash and recycling dumpsters, collection services and portable restrooms called Port-O-Lets, all of which keep Utah Golf Foundation events safe and clean, Leonelli said.

Corporate sponsors such as Waste Management of Utah are critical to the Utah Golf Foundation's growth going forward. Right now, Ulbrich said, that growth has to be carefully

balanced against the cost of getting bigger. For example, the Utah Golf Foundation currently has a waiting list of courses that would like to participate in the Youth on Course program, but the foundation needs more money before they can afford to expand. Currently, Huntsman said, Youth on Course has funding for 30,000 rounds of golf a year, with an average reimbursement to the course of \$51.

The foundation would also like to sponsor college scholarships as part of the state's Youth on Course program, and they'd like to offer more

Veterans on Course clinics, especially in Southern Utah; but each clinic costs \$2,000. The goal, Ulbrich said, is to grow responsibly and in a way that keeps programs affordable and accessible to anyone who wants to use them. But he's not worried. The Utah Golf Foundation has done that before and they'll do it again.

"We've had some incredible growth in the past five years, and it's been through some great support," he said. "It's been a labor of love to get it off the ground and we're pretty excited about it."



Through the Veterans on Course program, active duty military personnel and veterans can participate in free clinics that include instruction, a nine-hole scramble tournament, and an awards dinner. The clinics are a great opportunity for vets to connect with other people who have had similar experiences, said Utah Golf Foundation Board of Directors president Scott Ulbrich. For some participants, the clinics have been a literal lifesaver. Photo courtesy of Utah Golf Foundation.



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