

Get Hired Instead of Using Heroin

By Gus Comstock, June 2015

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Now, this is not going to make me very popular with drug traffickers, but having a job that lets you care for and support your family has got to be a better life than heroin addiction and no job.

If you agree, there are plenty of jobs waiting in and around Marion. And they are good paying and career-oriented. For starters, ground zero for job hunters is OhioMeansJobs/Marion County. I've been doing economic development for over twenty years, and nobody does it better than OMJ/Marion County. They can be reached at mcjfs.com/workforce/ohiomeansjobs. If you find something but don't feel qualified, they even have resources to get workers trained up to employer needs.

Also, RAMTEC (a robotics and advanced manufacturing training program) at Tri-Rivers Career Center is in Marion and used by companies from around the United States. OSU Marion's Alber Enterprise Center and Marion Tech's Center for Workforce Development are also available. Training opportunities and resources cannot get much closer to home or better. This is ground zero for jobs and training.

Marion has taken a few giant leaps forward with recent job announcements, but we have taken steps backward with the laced heroin trafficking and use. How sad is that? We get uplifted with exciting news about new jobs and economic growth; then a gut punch.

Getting hired instead of using heroin seems like an easy decision. It is not. But there are a number of social service agencies waiting for your call... 211 is a memorable phone number to call if you need help to get your job search started.

Marion has a history and culture of a hearty public and private infrastructure and dedicated workers. Big things are made here with pride. Marion Power Shovel workers sent a man to the moon. It took a crawler/transporter built in Marion to get the Saturn V rocket and Apollo 11 spacecraft to the launch pad. And the Panama Canal was built with equipment made here. Big Muskie, the largest machine ever built, was born here. Its shovel lies in rest in McConnelsville.

And more big things will be made here. It will happen again because Marion CanDo! and others are working with collaboration, purpose and dedication to keep the momentum moving forward. Of importance, this is a community effort.

We are poised to become a regional and state-wide manufacturing leader, again. Ask some old timers about Marion's manufacturing prominence back-in-the-day. You will be impressed when you hear about the hey-day of Marion as a nationally known center of manufacturing. Marion still has the infrastructure and workforce resources to again lead the region. But now it is much more technologically advanced.

So, to keep Marion's economy growing, the workforce must grow, too. We have some of the best business location sites in central Ohio, but if there is not a workforce to hire, the sites are worthless.

So please, please, think hiring. For Marion to become a regional and state leader in manufacturing, a skilled workforce is needed.

Feel free to get involved and participate. Talk up Marion. Get fired up about Marion's future. Let's keep the momentum moving forward so we can all enjoy Marion as the promise-land for new and growing businesses.