

## **JFS S.U.C.C.E.S.S. alum finds satisfaction with program**

*Ohio Jewish Chronicle 1/17/08*

Lou Pieri had worked in his job for 20 months when he got notice; he was being downsized, again.

This was a blow for the 45 year old who had served 15 successful years in the Air Force and six years in the private sector before working as a civilian contractor helping coordinate purchase and shipment of materials for the military.

Since leaving the military, he had been laid off twice, and each time had found the interview roller coaster a dizzying and often disappointing ride. Faced with tuition bills for one of his sons, all he could picture was a maze of job postings and the challenge of getting his foot through the door.

That's when he heard about the S.U.C.C.E.S.S. (Strategic Utilization of Career Centered Employment Support Services for Dislocated Workers) program at Jewish Family Services (JFS). He first met alone with a JFS career consultant to determine his employment goals and review his qualifications. Then he joined a weekly coaching session with 15 other people in the same situation.

The weekly sessions covered topics like budgeting household expenses during a layoff period; developing an individual employment plan; using effective job search methods; finding the right company contact and employing proven interview techniques.

"They hold mock interviews," said Pieri. "You get a chance to practice your answers and they take a look at how you're presenting your self and offer suggestions."

He also learned that a job search is self-promotion, 24-7, and that means a lot of networking, and that it can be enjoyable.

Pieri said, "I think it's just realizing that most people are interested in helping, and if you make the time to network, the person you talk with might know somebody else who could be helpful."

After revving up his resume (with help of a JFS career consultant), Pieri ventured out and two months later got the job he wanted as a supervisory customer relationship specialist with DSCC.

The advice Pieri gives to his friends who find themselves out of work is to join JFS' S.U.C.C.E.S.S. program.

"The program enabled me to come out on top of 14 candidates," he said.

There is no cost for services offered through JFS' S.U.C.C.E.S.S. program. For more information and to verify program eligibility call JFS S.U.C.C.E.S.S. coordinator Karen Hughes at (614)559-0177, via e-mail at [khughes@jfscolumbus.org](mailto:khughes@jfscolumbus.org) or visit the JFS Web site at [www.jfscolumbus.org](http://www.jfscolumbus.org).

*(editor's note: Columbus based writer Ruth Sternberg Portnoy interviewed Pieri for this story.)*