

## **Two birds, one stone: Live, work in community**

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With gas prices escalating, many have decided to find employment closer to home. Once you've made this decision, how do you find the right job?

Of course there are many ways to find a job, but some are more suited than others depending on the outcome you want.

Nowadays, the Internet is the quickest, and easiest, way to get your resumé in the hands of employers. However, this may not be the best option due to a number of unknowns: What is the real reason they're hiring? How can your resumé present the skills and abilities that best match the company's needs? When will they begin interviewing? If you receive an offer, is the salary fair? Is the job a good fit, and will you be successful in your new role?

Another job search technique is networking or through referrals, which is good because someone inside the company can answer your questions directly. However, networks are limited and referrals may come too late when a decision on a job offer has to be made quickly. Furthermore, your first impression will only be as good as your referrals' reputation in the company, something you won't know upfront.

An even better way to find a job may be to align yourself with a staffing firm in the community where you want to work. Staffing firms specialize in finding temporary or permanent employment opportunities from entry level to management. And, they recruit and present qualified candidates to their clients every day. Staffing firms offer several benefits the first two job search methods do not:

- Free job counseling, resumé review and interview preparation.
- Assessment of your skills and abilities to correspond with the right job opportunities.
- Salary guidelines that match your skills, experience and abilities.

- Inside knowledge of companies, positions and working relationships with your direct supervisor.
- Long-standing client relationships.
- And, most important, an ambassador dedicated to help you every step of the way

If you use more than one staffing firm, be sure to inform them not to send your resumé without consulting with you first. You don't want your resumé coming from three different staffing firms for the same position. Choose a firm with a great reputation for finding people a job that meets their needs. You will soon discover that a staffing firm can be the best resource to find the right job in the right location.