

OFFICE FURNITURE REMANUFACTURER SUCCESS STORY

Refurbished Office Furniture, Inc., a local office furniture remanufacturer that also provides office furniture moving services and office furniture installation services, needed help. They needed drivers with commercial driver licenses and people with furniture refinishing experience. They also were experiencing high turn over with their warehouse employees. The company was posting their job requirements primarily in the local newspaper, and had several job openings when they participated in the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce Committee of One Hundred's local business retention interview.

Within three weeks of participating in the Local Business Retention & Expansion interview, they had:

1. Posted jobs with the Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance (TBWA) and received LMI (Labor Market Information) on prevailing wages for the metropolitan area
2. Been offered a training grant program contract to hire and train candidates worth a total reimbursement of \$10,200.00 should any candidates be hired
3. Been introduced to the OJT (On the Job Training) training grant program
4. Been put in contact with small business consulting services

While not every job candidate presented was hired, and not every training grant used, the company did utilize the labor market information and adjusted some wage rates, resulting in a better candidate pool and hiring ratio.

As Joni Adams, president and CEO mused, "It was amazing to learn about so many resources available to help our business grow – and thrive – in Hillsborough County. We've been in this community since 1989 and you get so focused on the business, you often forget to 'look up' and take advantage of great business programs that are out there to help you – and don't cost you anything at all."

"Take the call" when a Chamber member contacts you about the Local Business Retention and Expansion program. It can truly be worth a lot to your bottom line!

To learn more, contact Donna Harak 813/276-9406 or via e-mail dharak@tampachamber.com