

Bridges with Business



Bridge Services, LLC provides landscaping services to residential and commercial clients of the District of Columbia as part of an ongoing partnership for residential lawn maintenance.

Patent Tending

As many of you know, The Bridge Ministry recently began its first for-profit business, Bridge Services, LLC. Under the leadership of Dabney Davis, Bridge Services got underway in the spring of 2005 and focuses on landscaping and lawn maintenance for residential as well as commercial properties.

Bridge Services is part of the vision we have to create job opportunities for the men who come to us, and the company draws its workforce from the men living in our two Intern Houses. In the past, in spite of our connections in the community, finding work was often difficult for these men. Now they can be assured of a job as soon as they graduate from the Buckingham program. That means they can begin saving money to be able to meet the expenses of moving out on their own. Of course, income is only a small part of what a good job means for a man in our program. Knowing how to do a job and doing it well brings confidence and encouragement. A man thinks differently about himself when he is able to accomplish something worthwhile as he provides for the needs of his family.

Over five years The Bridge Ministry has partnered with a number of businesses to create job and vocational training opportunities. Our most recent partnership is with M-CAM, a local business that helps inform both public and government investment around the globe by tracking intangible financial assets such as patents, copyrights, and trademarks in 112 countries. The Bridge will be helping to transfer information from 18th- and 19th-century handwritten U.S. patents

into M-CAM's databases. David Mearns, founder and president of M-CAM, sees the partnership as a win-win situation. In his view, it will provide a significant amount of computer training experience for the men at the Bridge while giving them an opportunity to be involved in high-end data management. Second, he believes it will increase M-CAM's ability to process information and hopefully be a way to connect them to potential new employees.

Overseeing the M-CAM project is Jim Polson, who continues to manage various outsourcing projects while initiating a revitalized GED program. "We try to enable everyone who arrives at The Bridge without a high school education to leave with a GED," says Jim. For those who cannot reach that goal, the hope is to give them enough of a head start to encourage the completion of their GED once they complete The Bridge program or at least to give them improved mathmatic and literacy skills for the marketplace and everyday life. Jim also looks to help Bridge graduates find jobs with vendors for whom the men may have worked while in the program. It's just one more way to encourage their success.



By using the M-CAM project, Jim Polson is helping to give men a head start to encourage the completion of their GED once they complete The Bridge program or at least to give them improved mathmatic and literacy skills for the marketplace and everyday life. Jim also looks to help Bridge graduates find jobs with vendors for whom the men may have worked while in the program. It's just one more way to encourage their success.

