



Press Clippings
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Part-time not always a choice over 50

By Jane M. Von Bergen, Inquirer Staff Writer

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Two things may be happening - simultaneously - to Sandy Ellis-Johnson, 59, caught in a long cycle of part-time jobs when she needs full-time work.

She may actually get a job, and she may become homeless as soon as Monday.

The owner of the house where she's living is moving tenants out to make repairs. And with her part-time income of \$7.25 an hour for 20 hours a week, Ellis-Johnson doesn't make enough to find another place.

More than 7.5 million part-time American workers are older than 50, and for most of them, 4 out of 5, part-time work is a choice - with income as a motivator, but also job satisfaction and a desire to stay connected to the work world.

But 1 in 5 find themselves in a situation similar to Ellis-Johnson's, concludes a recent study by Rutgers University's John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development in New Brunswick, N.J.

"The number of people struggling has remained high," said Heldrich Center director Carl Van Horn, coauthor of *The Joys and Disappointments of Older Part-time Workers*.

In June, the center released a report on part-time workers because, "in the aftermath of the great recession, what remained high was the number of involuntary part-time workers," even as the job market grew, Van Horn said.

Involuntary part-time workers would like to work full time, but can't because business is slow, they can't find a full-time job, or they have seasonal work.

In September, the center focused the research on older workers, age 50 and up, combining an analysis of U.S. Labor Department employment statistics with results of a survey of workers conducted in the spring.

Van Horn said that although younger workers "tend to be laid off more quickly due to lack of seniority and lack of experience, it's easier for them to get back to the labor market."

"Older workers, if they are in the unemployed population, it's harder for them to get back into the labor market," he said. So many of them turn to part-time work.

There are other differences, as well. Voluntary part-time workers tend to be older, white, better-educated, female, and married or living with a partner, the research showed. Many of them, Van Horn said, are satisfied with their work and enjoy the companionship and connection with coworkers.

While money is absolutely a factor in their decision to continue to work instead of retiring, they also are using their paychecks to supplement their Social Security, pension, and savings, he said.

That's how Doris Langford, 77, of Havertown, describes her decision to keep on working. Twelve years ago, at 65, she tried to retire from her full-time job as a receptionist at Bala Consulting Engineers in King of Prussia. It didn't last. She missed the company, and the company missed her.

So Langford works every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. "I love my job, and people treat me with such love and respect," she said. "I have no plans of retiring."

On the job, she still contributes to Social Security and a 401(k) plan, which she hasn't touched, and she has health insurance through the company.

She would have enough, barely, she said, to support herself and stay home without working, but there would be no money for extras.

Van Horn said the involuntary part-time workers experience a much different reality. More are minorities. They are less educated. The largest group has annual household incomes of less than \$30,000. More are widowed, divorced, separated, or single.

They have high credit-card debt, and rely more on food stamps and other forms of public support, Heldrich's study shows.

Ellis-Johnson could check all of those boxes. She graduated in June 2014 with \$62,000 in student loans accrued while earning an associate's degree in business administration at Peirce College in Philadelphia.

She is also on food stamps.

"The house I live in is dilapidated. When it rains, it showers in my bedroom," she said.

Ellis-Johnson had been working full time until she moved from North Carolina to Philadelphia to be nearer to grandchildren.

Unfortunately, she chose 2010 - the worst year for job loss from the recession.

"When I got up here, I had no idea how bad it was," she said. "I couldn't get a job anywhere."

Now she has a part-time job at the National Asian Pacific Center on Aging, where she is a job development assistant working in Center City for its outpost at CareerLink, the state-funded employment and job search office.

Ellis-Johnson may be getting the full-time job soon. An interview last week went well, and there is a better-than-

average chance that, by Nov. 1, she'll be working as an intake worker, helping people on welfare with career aspirations.

Her part-time work, she said, is rewarding - at least emotionally.

Her eyes shining with pride, Ellis-Johnson described how she encouraged one jobless client to persist despite the despair. When he finally landed a job, he insisted on visiting her to tell her the good news.

"I love it. That's the part that is so satisfying," she said. "I understand the struggle."

Cops, feds cracking down on SW Philly gang

Vinny Vella

POSTED: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2015, 11:23 AM

A joint task force of police and federal officials are making a renewed effort to clear a Southwest Philly neighborhood of a group of violent punks “hell-bent on violence,” according to Lt. John Walker of Southwest Detectives.

The “Greenway Gorillaz” are a gang of about 20 who have run rampant on the streets since 2012. They’ve been operating within an area of about 12 square blocks: between Springfield and Woodland Avenues and 52nd and 55th streets in Kingsessing, Walker said.

“People are afraid to come out of their homes,” Walker said. “We’re not going to tolerate that.”

In recent months, authorities have apprehended a majority of the gang’s members. With them secure, police investigators are teaming up with the agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to determine the full breadth of the Gorillaz’ criminal activity.

“We need the public to help us identify all the crimes they’ve participated in,” Walker said. “It’s an opportunity for people to come forward and help us put this together.”

Name a crime; the gang has committed it in that nexus: murder, shootings, robbery.

They’ve even taken over houses, converted them into stash spots for drugs, Walker said. In one instance, they shot a homeowner’s dog when the man wouldn’t comply with their demands.

Investigators have linked the group to five homicides this year alone. Only one has been solved: Thomas Holman, 26, who was allegedly killed by Tyree Peel, 27, on Aug. 15, Walker said.

In 2012, two of the gang’s members Ronald Ockimey, 27, and Leon Owens, 35, opened fire on a convenience store at 53rd and Greenway, the heart of their area of influence.

The duo was looking to take out members of a rival gang, but the only casualty was Markel Wright, a 22-year-old Peirce College student who took a stray bullet to the neck after buying chips from the store.

Ockimey and Owens were convicted in the slaying two years later.

“It’s a quality-of-life issue,” Walker said. “We need people to come forward with information that can help us take these bad seeds out of this community.”

Tipsters with information about gang-related crimes should call 800-283-4867.

Vinny Vella

Read more at <http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/dncrime/Cops-fed-cracking-down-on-SW-Philly-gang.html#ryUEDlxoVEozQ5Cp.99>

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VINELAND Cumberland County College will open its doors to prospective students and their families for its free College Night from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday in the CCC Student Center gymnasium near Sherman Avenue and College Drive.

College Night provides a mall-like atmosphere of tables where students and their parents can obtain a variety of informational materials. Representatives from more than 100 colleges will be

available to explain various opportunities available in higher education.

The event is open to the public.

Parents also are invited to attend a free workshop, "A Parent's Perspective," beginning at 5 p.m. in the Athletic Team Room, across from the gym. Topics to be discussed include: selecting a college, the application process, scholarships and financial aid, and utilizing the Internet for career and college selection.

Participants will include: Airline Academy, Alvernia College, U.S. Army, Art Institute International, Assumption College, Atlantic Cape Community College, Bloomfield College, Bloomsburg University, Brooklyn Manor College, Caldwell College, Camden County College, Carin University, Chestnut Hill College, Centenary College, College of St. Elizabeth, College Funding Authority, Columbia College Chicago, Delaware State University, Delaware Valley College, DeVry Institute, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, Elmira College, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Felician College, Garrett College, Georgian Court University, Goldey Beacom College, Grand Canyon University, Holy Family University, Hussian School of Art, Immaculata University, Kean University, Lancaster Bible College, Long Island University, Montclair State University, Moore College of Art & Design, Morgan State University, Neumann University, New Jersey City University, Notre Dame of Maryland University, Pace University, Peirce College, Penn College of Technology, Pennco Tech, Quinnipiac University, Ramapo College, Rhode Island School of Design, Rider University, Rowan University, Rowan College at Gloucester County, Rutgers University-New Brunswick, Salem Community College, Stevens Institute of Technology, Stevenson University, St. John's University, St. Joseph's University, Stockton

University, Temple University, The College of New Jersey, The Restaurant School at Walnut College, University of Delaware/Nursing Diversity Initiative, University of Pittsburgh, Wesley College, West Chester University, Widener University, William Paterson University, Wilmington University and York College.

Seating for the workshop is limited and reservations are required. For workshop reservations or event information, call (856) 691-8600, ext. 1457, or visit www.cccnj.edu.