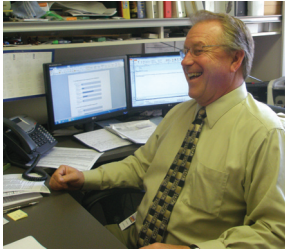


# Service Industry Jobs On the Rise

BY JERRY MILLER, VICE PRESIDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The service industry, specifically the health care and social assistance industry sector, is projected to be the fastest growing workforce sector in the country over the next seven years. It is expected to add almost four million new jobs from 2008 to 2018. That's an average annual increase of 2.3%.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the health care and social assistance sector had 566,000 openings in February, 2011 and 404,000 new hires. About 4 out of 10 jobs are in professional and service occupations. This workforce is responsible for the health, safety and emotional support of the individuals being served.



Job opportunities in social assistance should be numerous through the year 2016 because of job turnover and rapid employment growth. Some of the fastest growing occupations in the Nation, such as home health aides, personal and home care aides and social and human service assistants, are concentrated in social assistance. The projected growth has in turn caused speculation that our country and the world may face a care provider crisis as boomers live longer, needing assistance with daily activities as they age. A shift in demographics with more elderly and disabled people in need of assistance, smaller families to provide this care and a finite pool of workers who are well suited to the field, should be of concern.

Mesa Developmental Services, a local non-profit that provides services to individuals with developmental disabilities, hired 128 new staff in 2010 according to Jerry Miller, Vice President of Human Resources. "We were able to add 55 new positions to our base because of accelerated growth, including

the opening of three new assisted living type homes last year," said Miller. "The work isn't for everyone but those employees that are successful stay here because they get a lot of personal satisfaction from helping others. In a recent employee survey at MDS, 98% of those answering said this was a definite benefit of working at MDS."

In fact, they are the jobs of the future. They can't be outsourced; they are recession-proof and they can be powerful economic drivers improving the lives of many low-income families and spurring community revitalization.

Medicaid/Medicare is the largest source of financing for caregiver services in the United States. Home-based care provision should be considered a cost effective alternative to long-term care yet little is being done at the National level to address the projected shortage of care providers. It is essential that Congress recognize the tremendous work of caregivers and help this industry address this significant workforce crisis.

Miller added that recruitment for these positions at MDS would have been more difficult in a robust economy. With unemployment in the valley hovering around 11%, MDS hasn't had to do a lot of advertising for new staff yet are still averaging around 15 people going through their new employee orientation program every month.

For the future, our long-term care system faces a huge recruitment challenge. Upgrading the status of caregiving involves a societal reflection on its value, reinforcement by the mass media and in schools.

Individuals can apply to MDS online by going to [www.mesadev.org](http://www.mesadev.org).

CELEBRATING  
45  
YEARS  
1966-2011  
45th  
anniversary

Celebrating 45 years of making dreams realities.

Mesa Developmental Services is a non-profit organization and an active force in changing the standard of services for individuals and families with disabilities. We are committed to high quality of life for every person.

We would like to thank Mesa County for helping us make it happen!

MDS  
Mesa Developmental Services

[www.mesadev.org](http://www.mesadev.org)  
256-8612

Paid Advertiser Contribution