

A Now Job Might Be The Best Gift Of The Holiday Season

"The stockings were hung by the chimney with care ..."

With the holiday season upon us, you may desire a new position to start off the new year, but will you find a hiring manager in the office ready to make a job offer before the first of the year?

Chances are pretty slim, but it does happen, and now is not the time to put your job search on hold until the first of the year. Do not be discouraged - continue submitting your resume for jobs advertised in the newspaper and Internet postings, dropping off your resume in person to personnel departments and making phone inquiries. As the end of the year approaches, many corporations are preparing for the new year with already approved budgets and first-quarter hiring plans and they would like to start off the new year with everyone in place. We offer some positive reasons to look for a job during the holiday season:

- December is typically the month that everyone winds down, schedules vacations, wraps up all of the happenings of the past year, but businesses must continue day to day to prepare for the next year. People do actually work this month; the interviewing process can begin and job offers can be made.
- When attending holiday parties, utilize your networking skills to explore hiring happenings with other organizations (this could be a gift in itself by talking to people you wouldn't normally have a chance to meet face to face, but refrain from too much holiday cheer).
- You might be the only one applying/interviewing for a position that has to be filled by the first of the year because everyone else is already out of town or off for the holidays.
- The hiring manager might have received their year-end bonus prior to your meeting. Having caught them in a "festive, gift-giving" state of mind, you are offered a position on the spot. Capitalize on the holiday spirit.
- Sometimes the self-inflicted pressure brought about by a necessary job search coupled with all of the holiday preparations can motivate you in your job search to make just one more phone call - the one that gets you in the door.

Even if you have begun the interviewing process but don't have the second and third interviews lined up before the end of the year, don't despair. Everyone looks to the new year as a new beginning with much excitement and the perfect time to bring new employees on board.

Have a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.