

The Contributor

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C A P I T A L A R E A U N I T E D W A Y

Finding His Own Way

Finding a job in many areas these days is no easy feat for even the polished graduate, but for someone unable to read a job application, a street sign, or a help wanted ad the odds can be devastating.

"All my life people would tell me where to go and I'd go. I didn't ask questions," said Eddie Bradford, after enrolling in Operation Upgrade.

Bradford spent the first 55 years of his life unable to read these things and others that many of us take for granted. The words on a box of cereal could have just as well been written in French or Spanish for this Alabama native, who finally decided he wanted things to change.

"I was in church one Sunday and wanted to read along in my Bible, but I couldn't," Bradford said.

"I just decided I oughta start doing something for myself," he said.

Bradford wanted to read the letters from his children, to his wife for a change. He

wanted to follow directions on his own, without asking for help. He wanted to learn how to read.

Although Bradford found difficulty in day-to-day tasks that most pass through with ease, he was luckier than many illiterate Americans. Bradford had a job.

Bradford earned much respect at Harcross Chemical Co., where he supervised the chlorine plant for 35 years. Though it would appear to friends that Bradford lead a satisfying life, he knew there was more.

Bradford said he needed more control over his life, but hesitated to seek help for fear of failure.

"I was told for many years that I couldn't do it. I finally told myself I can do it — all I have to do is get interested in it and just do it," he said.

Bradford enrolled in Operation Upgrade in 1985 with a first grade reading level. He

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Education... the silent solicitor

Faculty and students in the East Baton Rouge Parish area unleash creative campaign ideas in an effort to help raise money for United Way. A structured campaign committee may be formed by the Student Council in one school, while a less formal approach is adopted by another.

Education employees and students contributed nearly \$250,000 to UW last year, but more encouraging than the amount of money raised is the time and effort employed to get co-workers and students involved in giving and understanding our community's needs.

"I think there has been great support for the campaign in the past. It is a part of citizenship. And if we maintain the same thrust, we will be very successful," said Dr. Bernard Weiss, EBR Parish superintendent of schools.

Public Schools

Dr. Don Hoover, UW coordinator for EBR Parish schools said, human services are predicted to be the job market of the future.

"That requires a sensitivity and an attitude that we've got to begin to nurture in our local school systems," he said.

To help in this effort, students throughout the EBR Parish are participating in "A Dime's

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