

A Long Term Partnership



The Verbum Dei Corporate Work Study Program could not find two bigger fans than Barbara N. Reilly, Vice President of Administration, and Joanie Rose, Office Administrator, at the Sullivan Group. “The program came to us through Jerry Sullivan our Chairman,” says Barbara. “We jumped right on it and we love it because it’s not only really good for the students, but it’s really a great opportunity for our employees. We’ve covered the gambit in the experiences we’ve had and we fall in love with the students every time.”

The Verb students have really made their mark at the Sullivan Group. “We have a tremendous amount of respect for these students,” says Barbara. “We started them out in general clerical work and eventually they replaced the temp workers we’d hire every year. What we’ve discovered over the years is that when we don’t have the students – during breaks and summer – we realize how much they contribute to the office and how useful they are.”

It’s always interesting to see how they change over time. “When they come in we put them through our orientation program with HR,” says Barbara. Most students start off nervous and uncomfortable working around adults. “But after a few days, they are laughing and joking with the rest of us.”

“One of the things we enjoy the most and find the most rewarding is when we take a student to graduation. We host a luncheon for them and if they intend to attend college, we provide them with a laptop. We really want to support their education as much as possible,” says Barbara.

“The Verbum Dei program has become a part of our culture,” says Barbara. But

it wasn't always that way. "We had to do a little bit of convincing throughout the company, to have our employees utilize the students on projects. But once our staff saw how by training the students, they could be really effective, the program just took off." It's gotten to the point now that staff people approach Joanie to reserve students for projects.

We certainly look forward to a long and fruitful partnership with Verbum Dei.