

Robert Hilicus



Robert (Bob) Hilicus is a kind and gentle man. He is 82 years old and just four months ago his wife and life partner passed away. Bob said she was the most important person in his life and he is struggling with his grief for her and the loneliness this loss has caused. It is because of this loneliness that Bob was able to find a path to SCAP. But, Bob's path is long and has taken many turns.

As a boy, Bob was poor growing up. His family moved frequently and he attended 27 different schools in the Capital District area due to his father going from one job to another. As a boy, Bob always had a paper route; he said he needed to work to help out the family and provide for his necessities.

As a young man, Bob joined the Navy where he was an aviation photographer producing short movies for the Navy's PR office. After the Navy, and for most of Bob's adult career, he owned and operated his own insurance agency which he started from scratch. He explained that back then, the insurance man was well respected and they were well-known for what they can do for a family. Bob said he never had the opportunity to obtain a formal education but he always wanted his daughter to have that opportunity. So he worked hard all his life to ensure his family could enjoy those things he felt were important, such as education.

Also, Bob is a detail man; he can tell you at great length the particulars surrounding the start-up of his business, his first (and second) insurance sale, and how he got to be so well known in his community. Throughout his life, he was reasonably successful; he volunteered with local civic groups and owned his own home. Over the years, Bob developed a passion for two hobbies, photography, and building and doing repairs around his home. He had become very proficient at both, and even managed to hire out as a photographer for weddings and other portrait work.

At 82 years old, he still manages to maintain and repair his own home. Bob said, "Poverty forces you to learn all sorts of things."

"I would love to work at Lowe's. The people there are so nice and helpful." continued Bob.

"When I went to apply for a job, I was told I had to apply on the computer. Well, I was a little

disgruntled. I went to the library for help, they have computers there but they don't provide help. The person at the library suggested I call SCAP for help. Well, I called SCAP and they enrolled me in the career readiness program where they teach you about computers and the whole nine yards. They prepare you for a job interview and help you assess your skills and beliefs. I learned an awful lot. I am so pleased I came to this class, and the instructors are excellent. I hope the people who come here realize how fortunate they are to get this help."

Bob said he needs to work for two reasons: the price of everything keeps going up and he is very lonely since his wife died. He wants to work at Lowe's because he feels he will be happy there and knows a lot about home repairs and maintenance. Also, he has projects he would like to do around his house to make it nice for when his daughter and grandchildren visit from Florida. Bob's goals are to stay healthy and work as a salesperson at Lowe's. Bob said, "I still have a lot of miles left."

Bob describes himself as a religious person and he knows it will take a long time to overcome his grief. Thanks to SCAP, Bob now has the computer skills he needs to move forward. With his gentle, friendly personality, his attention to details, and his new computer skills I am sure he will be successful in his next adventure.

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