

MOST PEOPLE VIEW THEIR MID 60s AS A TIME TO THINK ABOUT RETIRING AND FOCUSING THEIR PERSONAL INTERESTS. OBVIOUSLY, CHUCK SHANAMAN ISN'T ONE OF THEM.

Chuck was out of a job. During two long, difficult years of job searching, he found that potential employers wouldn't give him a second look.

In working with older job seekers like Chuck, JVS's experience mirrors national statistics that show a clear correlation between age and long-term unemployment. Half of the job seekers we serve are long-term unemployed people over age 50 with more than 20 years of experience.

Unfortunately, Chuck fit into that demographic - he was a successful professional with solid experience throughout his adult life. He dreamed of eventually becoming an entrepreneur and owning a business with his grown sons. He worked hard to make that dream a reality when he put everything on the line to launch his own business in 2009. It was a business model he thought was recession-proof. But his business venture didn't go the way he had hoped or expected and he closed the doors in 2015.

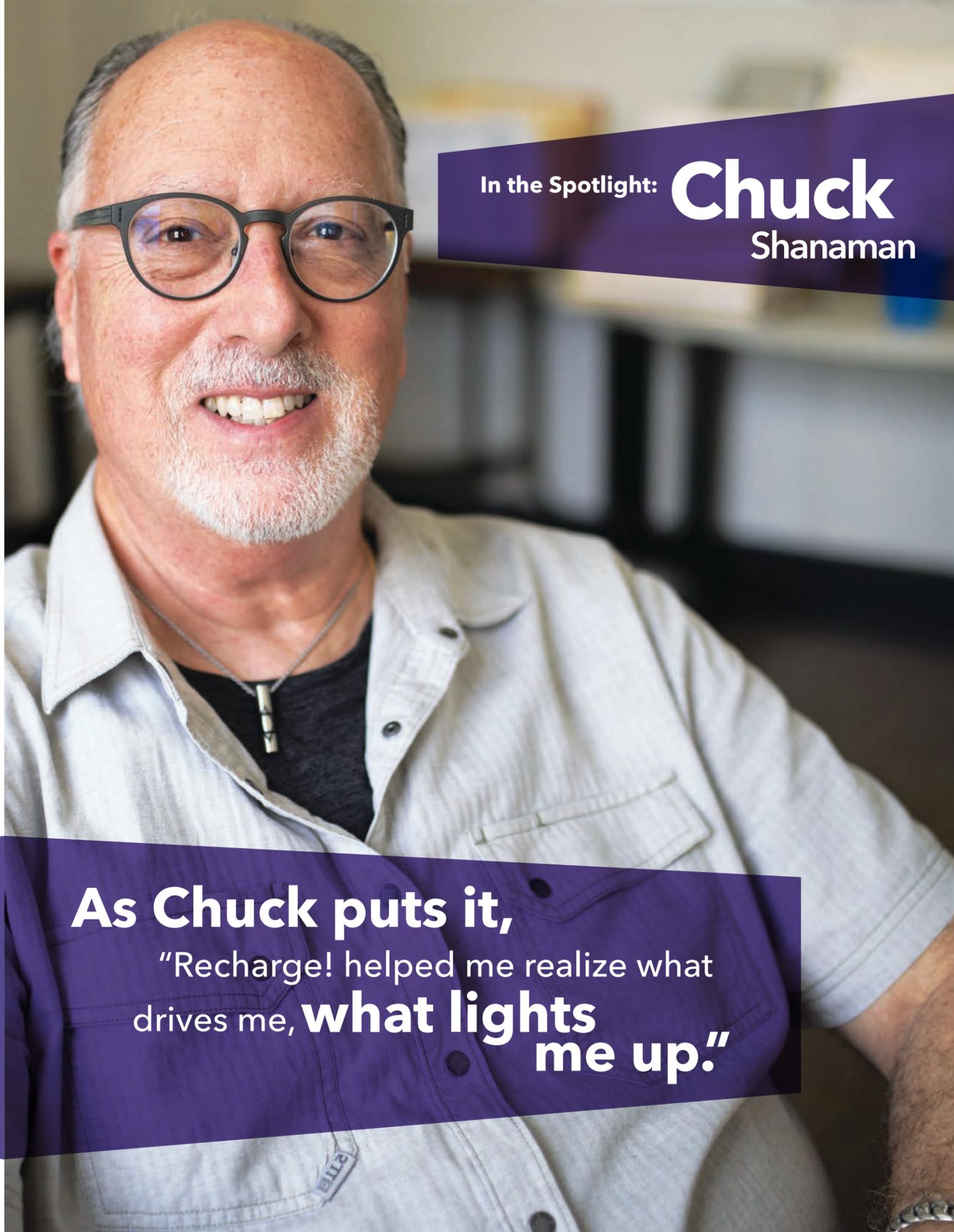
Unemployed for the first time since he was 14 years old, Chuck was burdened with the financial toll of his unsuccessful company. He needed to work, and he still had the drive and desire to work, but his job search found no takers. Chuck described his frustration: "I did all the things an educated person does: posted resumes, scoured internet job listings, applied for jobs. But I got very few interviews, and I became very discouraged."

When Chuck's wife suggested JVS, he agreed. Soon he was attending JVS career workshops to polish his resume, practice interviewing and update his job search skills. He also attended Recharge!, a four-week program that helps unemployed or underemployed people over 50 (like Chuck) reinvent themselves and re-enter the workforce with renewed professional confidence.

Through the Recharge! process of assessing his interests and life experiences, Chuck recognized that throughout his career, he had gravitated to familiar, but unfulfilling, jobs. Ultimately, the program helped him discover the sort of work he would find most rewarding. Or as he puts it, "Recharge! helped me realize what drives me, what lights me up."

And what lights up Chuck Shanaman is helping others. Today, thanks to a spark ignited at JVS, his work at the Fair Housing Center of Detroit benefits the community by protecting the civil rights of anyone who may face housing discrimination. He says, "It's the best job I've ever had in my life. And I'm paying it forward in a way that I never thought would happen to me."

Building upon strengths and turning dreams into reality, JVS offers a range of services to help job seekers discover their passions. In addition to Recharge!, employment services include career counseling, workshops, internships, computer training and personal financial management.



In the Spotlight: **Chuck**
Shanaman

6,342 job seekers

were provided with career and employment direction.

3,444 individuals

participated in seminars or workshops to improve their employability.

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