

Employment survey could be beneficial for local residents

By JOSEPH BAUCUM | Posted: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 12:30 am

GALVESTON — Gulf Coast Interfaith, an organization representing multiple religions and denominations, is asking for Galveston residents to complete a confidential employment survey. Lisa Windsor, a retired United States Army Colonel, highlighted the survey at Gulf Coast Interfaith's third annual Galveston Living Wage Conference on Monday evening.

The conference took place at Holy Family Parish, 1010 35th St. Windsor works for Houston Volunteer Lawyers, a nonprofit organization that provides free legal services to qualifying candidates.

The survey can be accessed online through Gulf Coast Interfaith's website. Physical copies are available at The Jesse Tree, St. Vincent's House, Galveston Catholic Charities, and Gulf Coast Interfaith.

Officials hope surveys will be returned by Thanksgiving, Windsor said. The intent of the questionnaire is to establish a model of exceptional employment.

"We really want to find out what's going on out there in the community and try to identify who the best employers are," Windsor said.

The survey seeks to ascertain several aspects. It asks about pay level, how many hours are worked weekly, health care, sick leave, retirement plans, and employee needs such as education courses or extra training.

The appraisal focuses on the island for now, Windsor said, before adding that it could conceivably expand in the future to other parts of the county.

"We have to start small and work our way up," she explained.

Gulf Coast Interfaith officials also hope that the survey provides statistics about where Galveston is as far as living wages are concerned.

Proper compensation is a growing sentiment all over the country, Windsor said. She cited as an example larger corporations such as Wal-Mart recently showing interest in raising wages after employees protested. It's in employers' best interests to remunerate ethically, Windsor said.

"It's important for the employer to see that treating their employees right benefits the employer in the end," she said.

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