General Information

Source: NBC Nightly News  
Creator: Brian Williams/Ron Mott  
Resource Type: Video News Report  
Copyright: NBCUniversal Media, LLC.  
Event Date: 11/14/2014  
Air/Publish Date: 11/14/2014

Description

Ex-Marine Jerome Williams, owner of four J's Barber Shops in Indiana, says it's important for him to help his employees become owners because, "once you're an owner, then you can help others."

Keywords


Citation

MLA

"Barbershop Owner Pushes Employees to Be Owners, Too.” Ron Mott, correspondent. NBC Nightly News. NBCUniversal Media. 14 Nov. 2014. NBC Learn. Web. 8 September 2018
BRIAN WILLIAMS, anchor:
Our Friday night Making a Difference report comes to us from a viewer who watches us on the NBC station WMAQ in Chicago who told us about his barber, a man who's discovered the key to success is sharing the wealth of what he's learned along the way. And we get his story tonight from NBC's Ron Mott.

JEROME WILLIAMS: I work at both stores or whatever, but I'll take care of them.

RON MOTT, reporting:
For Jerome Williams, taking care of number one means taking care of others. What was interesting is the location in a grocery store, how does that worked out?

J. WILLIAMS: Fantastic.

MOTT: He's a fixture at his four J's Barber Shops in northern Indiana outside Chicago, an operation that started humbly five years ago with three barbers and now boasts thirty-seven.

J. WILLIAMS: I took guys who didn't have any kind of clientele and put them in a place where a lot of people needed haircut.

MOTT: After a career in the Marines, Williams went to nursing school but was honest with himself and got out.

J. WILLIAMS: I realized that you don't want a person in health care that's just doing it for money.

MOTT: So he tried his hand at barbering. And with his personality and penchant for wooing people has built a successful business as diverse behind the razors and scissors as those underneath them.

PENNEE TIBIN (Barber): I just like his-- the way that he focuses on business and like, how he makes things happen.

MOTT: Williams isn't merely satisfied with giving opportunities, he mentors, teaching his crew the ups and downs of ownership. Ivan Duncan has joined those ranks, partnering with Williams in a shop that opened this summer at O'Hare Airport.

IVAN DUNCAN: Jerome gave me that opportunity to work 24/7, said you could make as much money if
you like.

J. WILLIAMS: 1.6 million is the goal…

MOTT: Though Williams clearly has financial goals for himself, seeing others reach theirs motivates him to keep J's growing one barber at a time.

MAN: Perfect.

J. WILLIAMS: It's important for me to help barbers become owners because once you're an owner then you can help others.

MOTT: A philosophy he never wants to see out of style.

J. WILLIAMS: It's good.


WILLIAMS: And a reminder, we are always looking for people who are making a difference. You can nominate someone in your life, in your community, share their story with us on our website then perhaps see it here on our broadcast.