

## **For Immediate Release: October 4, 2014**

### *Staying Employed is Key to Avoid Kids Living at Home*

A 2014 Gallup survey indicated that 14% of all kids graduating from college are living with parents. They continue to rely on their parents for support, even if they find immediate employment post-graduation.

Who suffers financially? It is not the young adults, but the Baby Boomers who are surprised to find their kids returning home after college graduation because they either can't find a job or have a job with wages so low that they can't afford to live on their own while paying down college debt. About 260,000 people who had a college or professional degree made at or below the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour last year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Boomers had hopes to sock away more money in those last few crunch years before retirement but instead must use their extra income to support their children who by now should be financially independent.

Faced with this growing reality, a recent article in Fortune magazine discussed how parents are helping their kids network and find a job, and are struggling to determine how far is too far in assisting their graduate.

"Our kids don't magically change once they receive a degree, but they should have been placed on a path to develop technical competency and communication skills before entering the workforce", say Joyce Jarek Mihalik, President and CEO of HlpSum1, Inc., who has served as a supervisor and business mentor for many Millennials.

**Jarek states that the emphasis in college was likely on technical skills development, but many young adults arrive at their first job post degree with a lack of communication and social skills.** Colleges include courses on presentation and writing skills in their curriculum in order to prepare their students for a business environment. However, training usually stops there, and today's new employees are left to navigate day-to-day coworker interactions by drawing upon their short brush with socially-accepted work behavior from an internship or interview. Understanding the soft skills and how to advance can be key to long-term employment.

So how much support is too much? "Parents should continue to support their children by sharing some of their early career experiences, but at this point, it is time for young Kelsey or Devon to move forward on their own. "Young graduates are just trying to survive, fit in and want to know if what they are feeling, saying and doing is OK. Encourage them to approach work like college – be a student of their new environment and evaluate cause and effect in the actions that they and others take", reports Jarek.

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This fall, Jarek will release her first book ***First Job: A Personal Career Guide for Graduates***. She relays personal experiences from her own business career through four fictional characters that find themselves in tricky business situations and provides advice on how to prevent them or respond responsibly.

“The market is saturated with reference information available for professionals with five to fifteen years of experiences who are ready for leadership positions, but few books concentrate on early career progression for both men and women”, Jarek reports. Books are written to appeal to business professionals that have passed by the early challenges and are now looking for a deep dive into self-improvement and leadership.

“The average 23 year old is jus trying to settle in, have fun and enjoy their new life, and put the heavy reading away for a while. I wrote a book that could be read in two hours that can impact a new professional during the first two years of work, which is often the most critical for maintaining employment.

For tips on navigating work life and advancing a business career, visit Joyce’s blog at [www.businessbeyondtheclassroom.wordpress.com](http://www.businessbeyondtheclassroom.wordpress.com) or visit [www.hlpsum1.com](http://www.hlpsum1.com) to purchase *First Job*.

### **About HlpSum1, Inc.**

Joyce Jarek Mihalik is a twenty-seven year career veteran with experience in business management, engineering and sustainable operations. She currently works as a business executive but uses her personal time to mentor and promote outreach through her HlpSum internet sites. HlpSum1’s mission is to create multipliers - people who can use their skills, faith and innovation to enable and empower readers to get involved in the lives of others, creating more “do-ers” and developing more leaders. Proceeds of the book will be used to support the [www.HlpSum1.Net](http://www.HlpSum1.Net) movement.