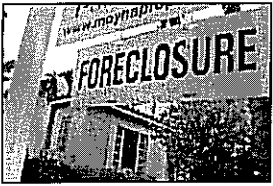


Real Estate Professionals Still Struggling to Find Work

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By [Steve Newborn](#) ([Send E-Mail](#))

TAMPA (2010-9-14) - A year and a half ago, WUSF visited with a group of people who were at the epicenter of the Great Florida Crash: real estate professionals.

Some of them had banded together with a mission of self-help. They called it "Real Estate Lives" -- one part job search tips, one part fellowship and one part group therapy.

Tampa attorney Ron Weaver was the driving force behind the group. At that time, he told participants that there were still jobs available if they looked hard enough.

"Do not get down in the mouth. There's a lot of opportunity out there," he said.

That was the message then. Fast forward 18 months, and - unfortunately for Weaver and the real estate people - the group is still going strong.

"It's been almost the worst year-and-a-half imaginable. I'm afraid that this particular real estate deep recession resembles a depression for those who are out of work," he said.

The group has some success stories. Of the 642 involved, 450 are back to work, thanks to about 9,000 calls that they've made on their phone bank.

Weaver says these are professional people who are usually highly educated and highly motivated. So it's hard for them to ask for a helping hand.

"It's not just a job, but also the family - with respects to the rebuilding of relationships, and the rebuilding of self-esteem," he said.

And Weaver - ever the optimist - believes the real estate crisis has ebbed, and expects another year or two before they can climb out of the deep recession. In the meantime, he counsels real estate professionals to hang in there and keep the faith.

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