



The Bank's Daily Online Newspaper

Feature



Pro-Bank Group Demonstrates on Penn. Ave.

DC charities express support

April 17, 2002—In what has become in recent years an unusual occurrence, a small group of demonstrators gathered outside MC at noon for a *pro*-Bank demonstration. The participants were the members of DC-based homeless service providers—the Gospel Rescue Ministries, Central Union Mission, CCNV and Salvation Army/Harbor Lights.

John Pendleton, a former crack addict, told Channel 7 News that through a partnership of the Gospel rescue Ministries and the World Bank Group, he overcame his addiction and was offered a job at the Bank. "They gave me a chance to do right and took their chance and I made the most of it," said Pendleton.

Since 1997, IFC's Legal Department has employed more than two dozen former drug addicts graduating from Gospel Rescue Ministries, which has been around since 1906 and operates as a homeless shelter and drug rehabilitation center ([click here](#) for full story). The group was expressing its gratitude to the Bank Group for its "A Chance to Work" program which provides employment, training, mentoring and outplacement services to men and women who have overcome homelessness and/or drug addiction to move back into the mainstream.

US Congressman Tony Hall honored James Wolfensohn and the Bank for this effort in a ceremony in January 2001. Said the Gospel Rescue Ministries' director John Jackson, "I see changed lives, truly trophies of God's grace." For the Bank, says IFC Deputy General Counsel Jennifer Sullivan, who has spearheaded the program, it is a win-win situation. The department benefits from cost-effective support as well as socioeconomic diversity.

Others who have benefited from the program joined the group singing yesterday outside the MC and hoping to offer a contrast to the views and experiences expressed by protestors.

The local media is reporting that a large number of protestors is anticipated this weekend. However, the majority will not be protesting the Bank and Fund. Mobilization for Global Justice (MGJ) and 50 Years is Enough rallies are planned for outside MC Saturday and Sunday mornings prior to extensive demonstrations elsewhere in Washington.

"A Chance to Work" has been such a success in DC that a similar program is underway in Cairo, Egypt to provide training and skills to homeless people there.





[back to top](#)



[Archives](#) | [Today Feedback](#) | [Submit a Story Idea](#) | [Advertising](#) | [About](#)

[Home](#) [Feature](#) [Story 2](#)