

The Best Job I Ever Had

Timothy Lovett

I don't think you ever forget your favorites in life, like your favorite teacher, or your childhood friends, or your first love. When I worked as an order selector at Hallmark Cards in Enfield, Connecticut, it was the best job I ever had. There were many reasons why I liked that job. The work was interesting, my colleagues were fun, the company was family oriented, and I believed in the product. These elements added up to an unforgettable experience and a lifetime of friendships.

Like Bees in a Beehive

At the Hallmark warehouse, we filled multiple customer orders by using a "selecting" process. We would get our orders and push-carts and set off on a trek around the warehouse tracking down cards for our customers. I am sure if you looked

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down from the top of the warehouse, we all looked like bees in a beehive, scrambling back and forth from the order desk to the selecting aisles.

When we were

done with our order, we pushed our box onto a conveyor, and the box would ride high above the warehouse, zigzagging its way through an industrial matrix before reaching the shipping area and being loaded onto a truck. By the end of the day, we might have walked eight to ten miles and selected thousands of cards.

Family Friendly Business

There are not many companies that provide flexibility to manage your work life and personal life simultaneously, but Hallmark is such a company. Let's say that your child is a student in middle school, and the carpool falls on you this week,

but you have to work from 7AM to 3PM. Hallmark has a program called "Mother Hours." This allows you to tailor your work schedule around your life, so you could go to work at 6AM

and leave at 8AM to bring the neighborhood children to school and return to work by 9:30 AM. Then you would stay until 4:30 PM to make up the hours you missed. I wish more companies did this.

My favorite event is "bring your child to work day." When I was a kid, I always wanted to go to work with my father, but I was never allowed to, so I never got to see what he did for a living. When I became a father, I wanted to show my children what I did for a living. When I got the chance to do this, I was like a kid on Christmas. I think I was more excited than my son. I couldn't wait to get him in that warehouse and show it off. My co-workers felt the same way because the warehouse was flooded with children. By the end of the day, the children filled orders, ate a few doughnuts, and my son got to see how I paid for his video games.

Good Co-Workers

I think it is important to like the people you work with because it makes the day go by faster and makes work palatable. When Hallmark hires, they usually hire the family and friends of employees because they believe that if they hire good people, those people have surrounded themselves with other good people. Judging by the work environment, they are correct. I loved my co-workers. They became my friends and my family, and I still have relationships with most of them. Those people played important roles in my life. We celebrated birthdays, we took trips together, and I even watched two of my co-workers get married.



I have never before met a group that I enjoyed so much, and that is another plus for Hallmark's hiring practices.

Believe in the Product

It is very important to believe in the company that you work for and the product or services it provides. Hallmark makes and sells cards, and cards can be a beautiful tool for supporting human relationships. Let's say a guy is attracted to a woman, but he doesn't know the right words to say to her; a card may be the difference between "just friends" and "until death do us part." The "Lordy, lordy; guess who's forty?" card can add humor to getting older. The "I'm sorry card" expresses the most poetic way of saying I messed up, and I want to make it right. Cards bring people together because they carry warmth and depth. When the sender writes a personal message inside of a card, it enhances the sentiment and gives the card power.

Hallmark Cards is the last of a dying breed: they believe in making work a positive experience, supporting families, and bringing people closer together. Hallmark products make people happy and feel relevant. It was my pleasure to work for them; I made many friends and even more great memories. They say if you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life, so I guess I didn't work at all in my four-year Hallmark career, and I do feel a little guilty for receiving all those paychecks. Maybe I'll send them a Thank You card.

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Timothy Lovett is an aspiring comedian/writer out of Springfield, Massachusetts by way of Lorain, OH. He hopes to start college in the spring of 2013 to study computer networking and IT security.

Take It Further

"If you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life." Discuss this idea. Have you ever had a job that didn't feel like work? If yes, describe it. If not, imagine what such a job could be.

Hallmark offered "Mother Hours." Some companies call this "flex time." Write down a schedule that would work for you. Is flex time important to you?

Express gratitude! The author appreciates Hallmark so much, he says at the end of his article that maybe he'll send them a Thank You card. Do you have an employer, mentor, or friend who has helped you in your work life? Write him or her a Thank You card. Be specific about what you are grateful for.

