

SYKES

Call Center in Bardstown still hiring

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BARDSTOWN, Ky. (WDRB TV Fox 41) -- A Bardstown, Kentucky Call Center is looking to hire dozens of more workers, bringing jobs to a region that really needs them.

It used to be a Winn-Dixie Supermarket, but for the past year, it has been a call center operated by Sykes Enterprises for AT&T, at the Kentucky Home Square Shopping Center, located near the intersection of Ky. 31 and Ky. 245 in Bardstown.

"One of the things I like about Sykes is that we are in smaller communities," says the Vice-President for Global Operations for Sykes, Jim Hobby. "We are creating jobs for people who might otherwise have to go to the big city."

The call center currently has 450 employees on two shifts, seven days a week. It hopes to have a total of 500 workers by the end of the year. "We are looking for more people to hire", says Hobby.

Although it's already up and running, Wednesday marked the official opening with a ribbon cutting featuring Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear.

"These jobs will put tax dollars into the local economy," says the governor," and it will cycle throughout retail establishments and it will help to pick up our economy even more."

Hobby says the economic impact to the local community after just one year of operation is more than \$7 million.

At one time during the recession the unemployment rate was as high as 14 percent in Nelson County. Although the rate remains at around ten percent today, economic development officials believe the area's economy is improving.

"People are going back to work here", says Kim Houston of the Nelson County Economic Development Agency, "we are seeing our existing industries growing at this time and that is where we are putting our emphasis right now."

Sykes Enterprises, which has its headquarters in Tampa, Florida, has three other operations in Kentucky with a total of two thousand workers.

For more information about Sykes Enterprises just check their web site at www.sykes.com <<http://www.sykes.com>>.