



SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SCSEP)

Our Mission:
Provide job training and placement for individuals age 55 or older with limited financial resources and to provide employers with trained, motivated workers.



SCSEP Newsletter

September 2017

An Employment Program That Helps Seniors Get Into the Workforce

Loretta Knox (middle above) was a social worker who went through three agency closures, all after the age of 60. Now she has found a new way to work, thanks to a program for senior employment.

Knox, 69, has bachelors and masters degrees in social work from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. After working for a nonprofit agency for 20 years when it closed due to loss of funding, Knox was eventually referred to a senior training program through AARP which taught her new skills such as working with Microsoft Excel. Now Knox is one of dozens of seniors getting help through the SCSEP program at Caritas Family Solutions.

The Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP) is a major part of the Older Americans Act, and the only federal program that focuses on

unemployed older adults rejoining the work force. The grant awarded to Caritas through Senior Service America, Inc. (SSAI), covers the salary costs of 90 participants across 11 counties.

Gary Woods is the new Program Manager, coming to Caritas from his previous position as Assistant Project Director for the AARP Foundation in St. Louis. He said it all depends on what skills the seniors bring to the table; many will be placed in libraries or hospitals, for jobs ranging from janitorial to clerical and more. "Our training program gives them the opportunity to work in a library or any number of places," Woods said. "We don't preclude them from anything. We ask them, 'What would you like to do?'"

Knox said many seniors come with lots of experience, but it can work against them because the

employers think they will have to pay them more money. "They don't say 'You're too old,' but you know what's going on," she said. Now Knox is at work - at Caritas. Her social work skills are helping Caritas with the very program from which she has benefitted. "You never get too old to learn," she said. To learn more, contact Gary Woods at 618-688-1127.

From the Manager's Desk



With summer coming to an end it's time to consider a few tips for seniors applying for holiday jobs.

Contrary to popular opinion, employers really do like to hire older workers. Retirees' flexible schedules often accommodate the holiday season, better.

The majority of employment opportunities are for three months. However, many of these positions can also be offered as year-round jobs. And don't forget the best part. If a participant takes on one of these positions, and exits the program; if the position ends, the participant is eligible to rejoin the program. Happy Job Hunting!

Gary D. Woods
SCSEP Program Manager



September is "International Update Your Resumé" Month, and we mark our calendars to remind us to freshen them up with all our latest skills and achievements.

Whether you are currently pounding the pavement or are seeking advancement beyond your current position, polishing

your resumé with your most recent accomplishments and acquired knowledge will keep talent seekers aware of your abilities.

Avoid the anxiety when opportunity knocks and you realize that your resumé needs major updating. Recalling years of achievement is much more difficult than an annual updating.

www.caritasfamilysolutions.org/scsep

