

900 Royal Heights Rd., Belleville, IL 62226



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

June 2018

Reflections on Older Americans Month by Gary Officer, SSAI



Gary A. Officer
SSAI President & CEO

The month of May was Older Americans Month, established in 1963 to highlight conditions of extreme poverty among our older citizens. The month served as a reminder of the

unique role they have in the daily lives of our families, communities and our nation's economy.

For low-income Americans, the one program that successfully integrates older Americans into the labor force is the Senior Community Service Employment Program or "SCSEP." Established under Title V of the Older Americans Act, SCSEP is the nation's only workforce development program targeted to older workers. Though not in the headlines, SCSEP is also one of the crown jewels of the great society anti-poverty programs.

Through SCSEP, a former government minister and refugee from war torn Liberia was provided the opportunity to serve her new community in Belleville, Illinois. After a successful stint working with host agency Caritas Family



Mary C. Johnson

Solutions, Mary Johnson transitioned into the agency as a staffer – assisting those, like her, who are seeking the opportunity to re-enter the workforce.

Let us continue to honor and celebrate our nation's older Americans. While doing so we should also recognize – through job action and real employment – their continued role as a vital segment of our nation's economy.

For more information about SCSEP, contact 618-688-1180.

Gary A. Officer is President and CEO of Senior Service America, Inc. which receives grant funding from the U.S Department of Labor to administer SCSEP through sub-grantees such as Caritas Family Solutions.

From the Manager's Desk



According to the U.S. Department of Labor, those that

are 50+ years old represent the largest segment of today's workforce. Older workers bring high levels of skills and emotional maturity that are essential to the long-term well-being of their employers. Yet in spite of their obvious workforce value, Older Americans remain the victims of continued age discrimination, and are often denied opportunities for job openings and advancement.

Older Americans Month provided us with the opportunity to express our appreciation to the thousands of employers who continue to provide opportunities for our older workers, and to the many community based organizations who provide care for those in need.



Gary D. Woods
SCSEP Program Manager

Review of Older Americans Month training day

Caritas Family Solutions SCSEP threw a shindig for Older Americans Month (OAM) that will not soon be forgotten! This year's theme for OAM was "Engage At Every Age," and so on Wednesday, May 16, we convened to engage others about the importance of SCSEP to older workers age 55+.

The event started out at the Caritas Regional Office in Belleville with over 70 SCSEP participants in attendance. Presenters included representatives from the Illinois Department of Employment Security, AARP, and special guest SSAI President and CEO, Gary A. Officer, who spoke informatively about SCSEP, and its (and our participants') significance to the workforce.

Just before noon, we transitioned (with an escorted cavalcade!) to the Hofbräuhaus restaurant, where participants enjoyed a light lunch and dessert. The festivities concluded with a proclamation from the Mayor of Belleville, Mark Eckert, who commented on the contributions of seniors.

caritasfamilysolutions.org/scsep

