

900 Royal Heights Rd., Belleville, IL 62226



# SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SCSEP)

## Our Mission:

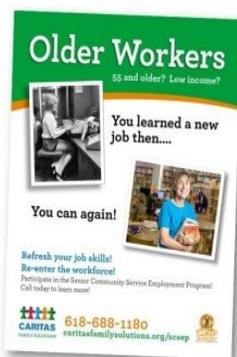
Provide job training and placement for individuals age 55 or older with limited financial resources and to provide employers with trained, motivated workers.



# SCSEP Newsletter

September 2018

## In Their Own Words: “The Program That Works for Me”—A SCSEP Testimonial!



I'm in the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) which is managed by Caritas Family Solutions in Belleville, Illinois .

It took almost 5 months for a position to open up. When it did, the first thing I did was decide where I wanted to work (train.) Then I verified that the place I wanted was looking for help. I chose the community college.

I coordinated a meeting with the SCSEP Manager and the Director of the Department where I wanted to work. I chose to work in IT. While I am not as skilled as my younger counterparts, I am learning a lot! They make concessions for my limitations—I am 63 and disabled—and it's working out well. I don't impact their budget and they get extra help. It's a win-win situation.

Re-think where you want to work, and propose it as employment that is funded by someone else instead of a volunteer situation. Most employers have had some bad experiences with volunteers at one time or another. However, you may be allowed to do just about anything that is considered a job on the SCSEP program. So, get creative and explore an idea you've never thought you'd be

able to do. This could be your golden opportunity! Check out various employment options. Don't limit yourself. I have never been happier with any job I've ever had! **2018 SCSEP Participant**

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

### From the Manager's Desk

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.



Gary D. Woods  
SCSEP Program  
Manager

### “Save Our SCSEP (SOS)” From a Participant’s Viewpoint

The Southern Illinois area suffers from a severe lack of appropriate employment opportunities for almost every age. Most importantly, though, people aged 55 and older have the hardest time locating jobs. The populations in these cities consist of a large number of retirement age citizens. Look in the local newspapers and you will see mostly openings for Truck Drivers, CPN's and Nurses.

As you can imagine, \$660.00 (gross) a month isn't much to live on when you receive only Social Security of less than \$1,000.00 a month. Rents in this area are between \$550.00 and \$750.00 a month. If a person needs medication, it is often the last item purchased as utilities and vehicle fuel costs/expenses keep increasing. Retirees don't receive increases in pay. Medicare doesn't increase enough to help anyone afford to live as they should.

The Caritas Family Solutions/SCSEP backed by a government grant through the Department of Labor, gives the 55 and older worker a chance to gain valuable training for a short period of time in order to locate a permanent position within a company. Please help us “Save Our SCSEP (SOS).” **2018 SCSEP Participant**



[www.caritasfamilysolutions.org/scsep](http://www.caritasfamilysolutions.org/scsep)