



# 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 2019

## Caritas SCSEP Partners with Belleville Public Library!



**Leander Spearman**  
Belleville Public Library

It's summer! Have you thought about international travel? There are several reasons why passport demand is at an all-time high, for both applications and renewals. For starters, all individuals crossing the border by

land or water to and from the United States to Canada, the Caribbean and Mexico (and all other countries), must show a valid passport or other approved documentation to enter the country.

The Belleville Public Library (BPL) is an authorized United States Passport Application Acceptance Facility and accepts new passport applications on behalf of the U. S. Department of State, which estimates that a surge of passport renewals—combined with other new passport applications—will push the number of passports issued this year to more than 21 million. The concept of making Belleville Public Library a facility

to administer passports was derived by its current Director, Leander Spearman.

Along with his vision came the need for Caritas SCSEP and our participants, who were placed at the library to facilitate the passport program. Last year, Mr. Spearman presented the idea to SCSEP, who said it would take approximately six to nine months of training to prepare individuals to run the program. And, that if SCSEP would partner, he would hire the participants within a year. As a result of Mr. Spearman being true to his word, three SCSEP participants—Deborah Pemberton, Beverly Brooks, and Laverne Dancy—came on board last month. Ding, Ding, Ding!

Spearman says, "The passport program has many benefits in that it generates revenue for the library which receives an execution fee for each passport application. Also, the program provides a community service, due to the fact that the vast majority of customers who apply for a passport prefer to do so in-person

at a passport acceptance facility near where they live or work. And third, by providing passport acceptance services, it increases community visibility and helps us [the library] reach more people."

For more information about our local SCSEP, call 618-688-1180.

### From the Manager's Desk

With summer on the horizon, now's the time to consider a few tips for seniors applying for summer jobs.

Contrary to popular opinion, employers really do like to hire older workers for seasonal jobs. Mature workers' flexible schedules often accommodate the summer season.

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 SCSEP participant takes on one of these positions, and exits the program, but then the position ends, the participant is eligible to rejoin the program.

Remember to: stay hydrated, stay cool, and stay diligent while looking for employment. Happy Job Hunting!

Gary D. Woods  
SCSEP Program Mgr.



## Review of "Older Americans Month 2019!"



May was Older Americans Month and this year's theme was "Create, Connect, Contribute," and engage others about the importance of SCSEP to older workers 55+.

Caritas SCSEP celebrated May 15th at Bellevue Memorial Park in Belleville, with over

50 participants of the program in attendance. Presenters included representatives from the Belleville Public Library and Programs and Services for Older Persons (PSOP), and the special guest was SSAI Vice-President and SCSEP National Director, Christine Garland, who spoke informatively about SCSEP, and its significance to the workforce. Participants enjoyed lunch and dessert, and the festivities concluded with a proclamation from the Mayor of Belleville, Mark Eckert, who commented on the contributions of seniors.

