

900 Royal Heights Rd., Belleville, IL 62226



SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SCSEP)

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



SCSEP Newsletter

October 2019



Caritas SCSEP Celebrates “Dress for Success” through Goodwill Industries

Many of our SCSEP participants can't afford to dress for success on their own, but because of a grant provided by the Lutheran Foundation in St. Louis, and a partnership with MERS/Missouri Goodwill, our participants were able to pick out a week's worth of clothing suitable for the workplace at no charge, from the Goodwill stores in Alton, Edwardsville, Belleville, and Fairview Heights.

Sherri Crabb started her training in the resource department at Madison County Employment and Training in Wood River last month, and was the first client to take advantage of the newly implemented clothing program.

“There was a job fair I had to attend, and I found out about the program just before I needed to go,” Crabb said.

“I didn't want to go to the job fair because I thought it didn't have suitable attire. But when I went to the Goodwill Store in Alton, I was able to purchase slacks, shirts, and blouses,” Crabb said. “Some of the items were new, with the tags on. I can mix or match different outfits.”

She was so impressed with her experience that she wrote a letter to Lawrence Davis, Sales Accountant for MERS/Missouri Goodwill, and sent a thank you note to Betty Gengler, Lead Employment Specialist at Caritas SCSEP, in charge of the program.

In her note to Davis, Crabb said she had been given a change of attitude as well as a change of wardrobe.

“This wasn't what I thought it would be,” she said. “It didn't feel like charity. This gave me a good attitude for starting work.”

Davis said, “This is the unspoken reward. This is what life is about – to be excited about where you're going. This is a two-fold service. We see the immediate effect with the clothing, and we see them feel good about themselves.”

From the Manager's Desk

October is “National Disability Employment Awareness (NDEAM) Month.”



The purpose of NDEAM is to increase awareness about disability employment challenges and to celebrate the many and varied contributions of workers with disabilities. This year's theme is “America's Workforce: Empowering All.”

Many seniors with disabilities often face significant barriers to employment, resulting in lower rates of participation in the labor force and higher unemployment rates compared to non-disabled workers.

Employment is essential to an individual's sense of purpose, dignity, inclusion and economic growth, ultimately resulting in a happier life. Remember our seniors during NDEAM!

Gary D. Woods
SCSEP Program Mgr.



Caritas Family Solutions SCSEP Receives \$25,000 Lutheran Founda-



Caritas Family Solutions SCSEP has been awarded a grant of \$25,000 from Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis, for supportive services, training, etc. “For a second year we are very pleased to continue providing our support of Caritas Family Solutions and their Senior Employment Program,” said Ann Vazquez, Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis, CEO and President.

SCSEP is a major program of the Older Americans Act, and is the only federal government program mandated to assist unemployed older adults seeking to rejoin the workforce by working in their community.

Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis is the grant-making ministry of 74 St. Louis area Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations. The Foundation's vision is to see the Church brought into the lives of hurting people and people included in the healing life of the Church.

www.caritasfamilysolutions.org/scsep

