

Welcome to 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.

Caritas Family Solutions SCSEP is operated under a USDOL grant and in cooperation with The Center for Workforce Inclusion, Inc. SCSEP is funded by a \$45.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. This funding provides 90% of the support for SCSEP with The Center providing 10% match or \$5 million. The SCSEP Program is an equal opportunity program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

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From the Manager

diversity month 2021



April is Celebrate Diversity Month, started in 2004 to recognize and honor the diversity surrounding us all. By celebrating differences and similarities during this month, organizers hope that people will get a deeper understanding of each other.

It means understanding that each individual is unique and recognizing our individual differences. It is about understanding each other and moving beyond simple tolerance to embracing and celebrating the rich dimensions of diversity contained within each individual.



So, let's Celebrate Diversity Month...
All year long!

Gary D. Woods
SCSEP Program Manager



Caritas SCSEP Participant Ray Bowers is a Master of Kid Cuisine

With all of the changes COVID-19 has brought to children's lives, the one constant the children of the Centralia Community Youth Center can rely on is the delicious meals they get from Ray Bowers, who has been cooking for over 30 years. "My mother taught me how to cook when I was growing up," said Bowers.

The only official training he has had in the kitchen comes from food safe courses. Herb Williams, director of the youth center, said that Bowers is extremely talented and truly cares for the kids he serves. "He can fix a great meal. Whenever he's in there cooking, we remind him to make enough for the adults," said Williams.

Williams said that Bowers asks the children of the center what they would like to eat and remembers what the kids prefer. He said that he wants to make sure that each child has enough food for when they leave the center, his concerns are not limited to the child's time at the center. "He'll send them home with snacks or extra meals for the night, in case they can't get that at home," said Williams.

Bowers was hired for the center through the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). The program is a community service and work-based job

training program for older Americans. Authorized by the Older Americans Act, the program provides training for low-income, unemployed seniors who are 55 years or older.

The program oversees 11 counties in Illinois and is allowed 70 participants a year. Bowers is one of the accepted participants for Marion County.

Gary Woods, Program Manager for the SCSEP, said that Bowers is a diligent worker who has been with the program for one year, and is always quick to update the SCSEP team on what is going on within the program. He said Bowers regularly advocates for the program or finds seniors who may need the program. "I have not been afforded the opportunity to taste Mr. Ray's cooking; but maybe Mr. Williams can change that," said Woods.

Williams said the center will be sad to see him go after his remaining time is over. He said that the center has been truly blessed to have Bowers and hopes to secure funds to one day bring him onto the Centralia Community Youth Center payroll.

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



Edwardsville Express Employment Professionals Win Best in Staffing, Talent Awards



Nathan Smith



The Edwardsville Express Employment Professionals office announced they have won Best of Staffing Client and Talent Awards for providing superior service to their clients and candidates. Express also received Best of Staffing Talent Diamond Award for providing superior service to candidates for at least five consecutive years.

"It's an honor to be one of the industry's best in providing a service we feel so passionate about," said Marketing and Recruiting Manager Nathan Smith. "It speaks volumes of the team we are and the dedication we have to our associates and clients."

The Edwardsville Express Employment Professionals franchise began operation in 2014 and serves the Madison County and surrounding areas with workforce retention and staffing of employees in a variety of fields, including administrative, industrial, technical, skilled trades, sales, and marketing. Express has assisted

a number of SCSEP participants with employment opportunities during this time.

Express is committed to the vision of helping as many people as possible find good jobs by helping as many clients as possible find good people. With its international headquarters based in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Express has more than 830 franchises in the U.S., Canada, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

April Birthdays

Lora Green

New Employment

Ronald Lucas and Gale Montgomery

