

**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's Desk



In 1976, the expansion of Negro History Week to Black History Month was officially recognized by the U.S. government.

It is important to remember that Black History Month is a time to celebrate, recollect and reflect on the important roles that African-Americans play in America.

While we celebrate accomplishments and share the rich heritage during

Black History Month, it is important to embrace the diversity of people everyday.

It is the collective contributions of all citizens that make the U.S. the best place to live, work and raise a family.

Let's not just remember the past...let's

continue the legacy...today, tomorrow, and beyond.



Gary D. Woods
SCSEP Program
Manager



An Employment Program That Helps Seniors Get Into the Workforce



Susan Jones

Susan Jones was an office administrator who went through a number of agency closures after the age of 55. Now she has found a way to work, thanks to a senior work program.

After 10+ years working for non-profit programs that closed due to loss of funding; Jones was eventually referred to a senior training program through AARP, which taught her new skills such as working with Microsoft Office. Now Jones is one of dozens of seniors getting help through Caritas Family Solutions, the non-profit organization that was awarded the contract after a realignment in 2017.

The Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP) is a major part of the Older Americans Act, and the only federal program that focuses on unemployed older adults rejoining the work force. The grant awarded to Caritas through The Center

for Workforce Inclusion, covers the salary costs of over 100 participants annually, across 11 counties.

Gary Woods, SCSEP Program Manager, said program success depends on what skills the seniors bring to the table. "Our training program gives them the opportunity of working in a variety of areas ranging from janitorial to clerical and more. We don't preclude them from anything. We ask them, 'What would you like to do?'"

Jones, who serves as Office Manager for the program, said many of the seniors come with lots of experience, but it can work against them because employers think they will have to pay them more money. "Employers don't say 'You're too old,' but you know what's going on," she said. Now Jones is utilizing her skills to assist other seniors in the very program from which she has benefited. "You never get too old to learn," she said.

For more information, please contact 618-688-1180.

February is National Library Lover's Month



The entire month of February is dedicated to the people who love whole buildings devoted to the reading, housing,

organizing, categorizing, finding, studying and otherwise loving books. It's National Library Lover's Month!

But, since the onset of COVID-19, many libraries have had to close or redirect or completely alter how they do business. Libraries have added virtual programming, distributed free craft supplies, put together book bundles for families and offered curbside pick-up services. For senior citizens, libraries provide opportunities to engage with others and expose them to music, art and possible friendships. Many libraries have installed mobile hot

spots in their parking lots, enabling many more people to log onto the Internet.

"Libraries provide our SCSEP participants with resources for their job searches, including computer access, which is necessary when trying to enter the job market," said Gary Woods, SCSEP Program Manager. So, remember National Library Lover's Month when utilizing the library in February.

February Birthdays

Linda Jones
and Robbie Dabney

