

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.

Inside This Issue

From the Manager 1
 Save our SCSEP 2
 Review of Older American's Month 2022 2

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 participant takes on one of these positions, and exits the program; if 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
Manager



A Letter to Our Legislators: “Save Our SCSEP” (SOS)!

Dear Legislator:

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 more retired citizens than families with young children. Look in the



local newspapers and you will see mostly openings for Truck Drivers, CPN's and Nurses.

The Caritas Family Solutions Senior Community Service Employment Program 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. The pay isn't significant – a mere \$12 per hour with a total of 20 hours per week available to train/skill build.

However, non-profit businesses that partner with the Caritas program, offer a chance for an older worker to gain useful training and skills to prepare us to secure unsubsidized employment, and potentially earn a livable wage.

As you can imagine, \$960 (gross) a month isn't much to live on when you receive only Social Security of less than \$1,000 a month. Rents in this area are between \$550 and \$750 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. S.O.S. please!



SCSEP Participant '22

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

Review of “Older Americans Month 2022”



The month of May was Older Americans Month and this year's theme was “Age My Way,” and engaged others about the importance of SCSEP to older workers 55+; and on Wednesday, May 18, we convened to do just

that for the first time in two years since we started practicing pandemic protocols.

The program was held at Caritas Bellevue Regional office, with over 50 participants of the program in attendance. Presenters included representatives from Caritas Family Solutions Headquarters; and entertainment was provided by DJDC (Deryl Cunningham) who kept our audience dancing and active. Center for Workforce Inclusion (CWI) President and CEO, Gary Officer virtually informed our participants about SCSEP and their significance to the workforce.

Participants enjoyed lunch and dessert; and the festivities concluded with a proclamation from the Mayor of Belleville, Patty Gregory, who commented on the contributions of seniors.

June Birthdays

Starla Collins,
Sherri Crabb,
Susie Ingram,
Susan Jones,
Patricia Lee, and Sandra Trump

New Employment

Annie Moore, Sherry Dagon,
Mimi Foster, and Susan Jones

