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THE REVIEW NEWSPAPERS

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2015

When it comes to jobs, aptitude and attitude are what count

Age is less an issue when older adults are prepared to meet the challenge

The term 'older adult' can conjure up a wide variety of images, from 'grandma' baking cookies and 'grandpa' meeting friends for a round of golf, to someone no longer active. The truth is, those images are left over from the past, when people quit working in their 60's and 'retired' to a more limited lifestyle. Today, many older adults are choosing to continue working, and that means getting ready to meet the current job market requirements.

"Every day adults 55 and older call or come in to our offices looking for work," said Julie Sheely, Project Director for Mature Services' Employment & Training Solutions in Youngstown. "They may need to continue working for a number of years to assure a good retirement when the time comes, or sometimes they want to help out children who have hit on hard times," she explained. "Then there are those who are interested in moving in a new direction, either because the type of work they do has gradually faded away, or their interests have changed," she added. Whatever the reason, they are ready and willing to work, and need only the opportunity - and that is where Mature Services comes into play.

Mature Services, Inc. is a non-profit agency that has been providing employment and training services to older adults since its inception in 1977. The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is their signature offering, an extensive program for older workers that assists them in learning new job skills and provides paid on-the-job training for eligible individuals. "We know the program works because so many of our trainees have gotten jobs," Sheely stated. "Right now we have 35 openings in our training program, and we want to get the word out. Employers have discovered the advantage of hiring older workers, with their strong work ethic, positive attitude and commitment, so now is the time to get trained and get out there."

Individuals in the program are assessed for current skills, and those they hope to acquire, and then either placed in training assignments with local non-profit programs or



scheduled for classes. "By placing them in a paid position with a local non-profit, they can earn money while developing the skills they need, and add the work experience to their resume," said Sheely. The program operates in 40 counties throughout Ohio, and last year provided a total of 640,774 hours of service to the communities where they are located, enabling those agencies to expand their services to meet unmet needs.

In addition to paid training assignments with local non-profits, there is an on-site computer lab where trainees can learn computer skills, and help in maneuvering through all the new ways to find work, updating a resume and developing a new career. All at no charge, because the program is supported through state and federal funding.

You can learn more about the training program by watching the video at <http://www.matureservices.org/youngstown> or by calling 330-782-0978. The Youngstown office serves Mahoning, Trumbull and Ashtabula county residents, and the toll free number is 1-800-472-8961.

Finding the right job is all about being prepared.

Whatever your goal, recent work experience can help you secure the job you want.



Employment & Training Solutions

Call 330-782-0978
today for more information.
www.matureservices.org

Mature Services is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.

If you are an adult 55 or older and a resident of Mahoning, Trumbull or Ashtabula counties, you may qualify for paid on-the-job training opportunities. Call toll free 1-800-472-8961.