



McHenry County Workforce Network Annual Report – October 2009

McHenry County Workforce Network helps job seekers train for and find new jobs and more rewarding careers faster and easier. And we help employers with proven labor market solutions that include job fairs, pre-screened hiring, up-to-date market information, outplacement services, incumbent worker training grants, and more.

Our Mission – To provide employment opportunities, training and related services that are responsive to the needs of the people and employers who comprise the communities within McHenry County.

Our Vision – To create a skilled workforce in McHenry County that will help our community achieve economic prosperity. This vision is becoming a reality through the development and delivery of market-driven training and services that meet and exceed our customers' expectations.

Business solutions – We offer a comprehensive portfolio of market-proven business services and solutions. Recruitment and outplacement solutions. Employee and workforce training programs. Management and information services. Networking and funding opportunities. In most cases, our services and solutions are available at no cost to you. Certain customized or tailored solutions are available for a nominal fee. Go to our Business Services link at www.mchenrycountyworkforce.com for further information. Business branding options can be found at www.illinoisworknet.com.

Job Search Solutions – At McHenry County Workforce Network, we offer expert job search assistance in a friendly, supportive environment. We provide services for our county residents at no cost to the job seeker. We help you find a new job or career quickly and efficiently through a number of leading-edge services, including: Job Postings and Employer Contacts; Workshops and Seminars; Career Exploration; Countywide Resources Network; and Computer and Resource Center. Go to our Job Seeker (Adult) Services link at www.mchenrycountyworkforce.com for further information.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funded Programs

Incumbent Worker Training

221 workers at 15 County employers have received training to upgrade their skills. Projects have included Lean Manufacturing, High Dose Radiation Therapy, Inventory Control/Purchasing, Manufacturing software upgrade training, Welding, Extrusion & Hot Gas High Speed Plastic Welding/Certification, Blueprint Reading, SolidWorks 3D CAM, software training, APICS training and set up, and Operation and maintenance of new flexible packaging equipment.

These training projects have helped make County employers more competitive and have given workers the skills they need to retain their jobs. Some participants have moved into better and higher paying positions.

Summer Youth Program

The Summer Youth Work Experience program funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was a huge success as the following statistics attest.

- Planned for 180 youth and ended up serving 212 at 118 worksites throughout the County.

- \$422,000 in wages paid out to youth.
- 10% of youth participants were hired by their worksite at the end of the program.
- Over 90 youth will stay on for the year round program.
- As of 9/15/09, 100% of youth ARRA funds have been spent; **80% spent directly on wages.**

McHenry County Workforce Network partnered with First Institute in Summer 2009 to put youth to work creating Outdoor Living Classrooms at three middle schools in Crystal Lake: Bernotas Middle School, Hannah Beardsley Middle School, and Lundahl Middle School. Eligible youth applied to participate in the Summer Work Program funded by the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA), and 20 were placed at Outdoor Living Classroom worksites for 8 weeks. The project was developed to preserve Monarch butterflies, which are on the endangered watch list because milkweed plant populations are not being preserved country-wide.

<http://www.co.mchenry.il.us/departments/workforcenetork/Pages/YouthProgram.aspx>

2009 State of Illinois Annual Awards Winner McHenry County Workforce Network – Youth Program



Barbara Billimack, Youth Workforce Specialist, presents award to Stephanie Dziewionka.

In October 2007, Stephanie Dziewionka came to the McHenry County Workforce Network Youth Program as a young 20 year old single mother. Stephanie had goals from the beginning of the program that she wanted to follow in her mother's footsteps and obtain her CNA certification. Throughout her life she has visited her mom at work and said "The job of a CNA is something that is rewarding and very necessary when caring for others who are in need, I can't wait to be that person who helps."

By February 2008 Stephanie was linked up with our Adult Program and she began taking CNA classes. Transportation for her has always been a challenge and the distance from home to her CNA classes is about 25 miles. Regardless of the distance and through additional supportive services from the Adult Program, she was able to get to her classes and do what was expected of her. Stephanie completed her CNA classes and passed the state licensing exam in April 2008.

Stephanie's drive and determination to succeed is something that has been with her for a long time. Even though she got pregnant while in high school, she chose to walk the halls of her high school as a pregnant teenager and not drop out in order to achieve her high school diploma, and she did! Stephanie's case manager, Gina Michelle, can't say this enough about her "Throughout her time in this program, Stephanie has had *many* personal issues arise. Through her perseverance with a sense of humor she muddled through them all and continued looking towards her future goals."

Stephanie had a worksite through the Youth Program at a nursing home, Alden Terrace, as an Activity Assistant beginning in January 2008. She quickly developed rapport with their residents and was remembered fondly when she left that worksite for one that was closer to her home because of transportation issues in June 2008. She then worked for McHenry County in the Veterans Affairs Department doing office work. They appreciated Stephanie's hard work so much that they wanted to hire her on directly and but couldn't because the rules there say that you have to be a Veteran to be on their payroll.

It seems that no matter what Stephanie does or where she goes, she works hard and does the best that she can no matter what obstacles are put in front of her. Stephanie has now earned enough money that she officially has her own car and because of this she was able to go back to her original worksite at Alden Terrace and interview for a CNA position on their payroll. Stephanie went through the normal rigorous interviewing process at Alden Terrace. Thanks to her dedication to attending Youth Program Work

Readiness classes and meeting with her Youth Program case manager on a consistent basis, she had the necessary skills to land herself a CNA position. She has been working there since April 2009 and is doing a great job.

PY08 McHenry County Workforce Network Performance (26 week income goals; PY08 runs from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009)				
Performance Measure	Goal	Threshold	Actual Outcome	Status
Adult Entered Employment	0.78	0.62	0.81	EXCEED
Adult Employment Retention	0.85	0.68	0.95	EXCEED
Adult Average Earnings	10,200.00	8,160.00	14,000.12	EXCEED
Dislocated Worker Entered Employment	0.86	0.68	0.87	EXCEED
Dislocated Worker Retention	0.89	0.71	0.89	EXCEED
Dislocated Worker Average Earnings	18,300.00	14,640.00	19,740.29	EXCEED
Youth Attain Degree or Certification	0.60	0.48	0.85	EXCEED
Youth Placement & Retention	0.66	0.53	0.73	EXCEED
Youth Literacy & Numeracy Gains	0.50	0.40	0.92	EXCEED

McHenry County Workforce Investment Board

The McHenry County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) did a follow-up in 2008 to a State of the Workforce Report that was done in 2003. As a result of the findings in that report three committees (Business Forum, Training, and Marketing) have been formed to implement some of the findings from that 2008 report. One of the findings was to focus on one of its most valuable assets and that was the education level of its youth.

The State of the Workforce Committees are now focusing their efforts on getting schools and businesses to use the Career Readiness Certificate as a means to help high school graduates get that most important first job. These committees want to stress to the schools the importance of adding a third test for high school students so they (the student) can get a Career Readiness Certificate rating to take with them on job interviews. The committees also have to get businesses to buy in to the fact that this Career Readiness Certificate can be a valuable tool in evaluating the prospective employee and can potentially save them time and money in the hiring process.

If the Workforce Investment Board is successful in this effort it can be a win-win for both the high schools and local McHenry County businesses.



McHenry County Workforce Network is a partner agency at the **McHenry County Workforce Center**, which has been designated as an Illinois workNet Center. Information about the Illinois workNet system can be found at www.illinoisworknet.com.

What McHenry County Workforce Center customers have to say ...

The job of a CNA is something that is rewarding and very necessary when caring for others who are in need. I can't wait to be that person who helps.

2009 State of Illinois Individual Achievement Awards winner, Area 2

This was a long and sometimes discouraging journey. I did have occasional bouts of feeling a little hopeless, but with coming to the Job Club networking classes and receiving so much help in the resource room, I worked my way through those times relatively quickly. I am so thankful for receiving assistance in taking computer classes to update skills I was lacking. I love learning, and I am looking forward to my new challenges. **WIA training-funded customer; now re-employed**

I am a recent graduate of the Microsoft Applications class at the Shah Center. I am writing to you to let the people at [McHenry County Workforce Network] and at MCC know that the class was superb. I would certainly recommend that this class be offered again, and again, as I think most people who even have some training, can update and renew their skills, and those who "think" they have an understanding, probably don't have as thorough an understanding as they think. **WIA training-funded customer**

Please accept this letter as a token of our deepest gratitude. At the beginning of the summer, our son was accepted into your youth summer work program. To know that he has another year [in your program] is simply amazing. I know that your program is making an extreme difference. So, THANK YOU!!! Your program is helping this young man move forward. Your program is helping an entire family move forward. **Parent of an ARRA-funded Summer Youth Program participant**

I went for an interview, and the interview went well. I just wanted to let you know that the seminars and all of the info offered there at your office were a huge help to me. I really don't think I would have been as prepared for all of this without all of the information you supplied. So, a great big thanks to all of you. **Network to Success Job Club member; now re-employed**

Since I learned of this position through an email from you, I am very, very thankful to McHenry County Workforce Network. Please tell everyone who is looking that something is out there for them. They just need to stay as positive as possible and keep a close eye on those emails from you. Thank you to McHenry County Workforce Network for this opportunity and good luck to everyone in the Job club. **Network to Success Job Club member; now re-employed**

It was a great turn out. People were professional and extremely excited.
HR Recruiter, Healthcare Job Fair employer

Bottom line: The patients who we serve at the cancer center should get more optimal care as a result of the training that was funded by the incumbent worker grant.

Incumbent Worker, McHenry County healthcare provider

Having being sent for Brachytherapy treatment planning training through the incumbent work program has given me the opportunity to improve my skills and expanded my role as a medical dosimetrist. We already work hard ... to give our patients the best possible care, but this training enhances and furthers our understanding of the current technical advancements pertaining to brachytherapy. Thank You.

Incumbent Worker, McHenry County healthcare provider

The Incumbent Worker program has provided us with the training needed to build our human capital, provide opportunities for new jobs, improve our competitive advantage and provide value added products and services. With such strong support, we expect to continue to be a contributing member of the community for many years to come. **HR Director, McHenry County manufacturer**

We were very excited when we learned about the McHenry County Workforce Network. Being a small business our resources are limited. With the help of the McHenry County Workforce Network we were able to send 7 employees through an intensive week long training program. Our employees are better informed on the practical knowledge of plastic welding and our jobs have a better quality workmanship.

Office Manager, McHenry County Manufacturer

Chirch Global Manufacturing, LLC is very appreciative of the dedication and commitment by McHenry County [Workforce Network] to retain and grow the manufacturing sector of our community. In particular, the Incumbent Worker Training Program has enabled our workers to obtain new skills to further their professional careers and achieve our company mission of *"competing with anyone...anywhere in the world"*. **Anthony L. Chirchirillo, CEO**

McHenry County Workforce Center PY 08 Resource Room / Seminar Statistics*

11,702 – Total visitors (up from 9,178 in PY 07)
4,733 – Distinct visitors
3,119 – First time visitors
1,136 – Illinois workNet visitors
29,056 – Total Center services provided (up from 22,898 in PY 07)
1,291 – Information session (WIA/TAA) attendees
128 – Workforce Network-sponsored job fair attendees (down from 787 in PY 07)
803 – Network to Success Job Club attendees (up from 577 in PY 07)
448 – Workforce Network job search seminar/ workshop attendees

*PY 08 runs from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009

**McHenry County Workforce Network
PY07 Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
Eligible Customer Participation***

950 – WIA eligible customers served (up from 511 in PY 07)
66 – 1Y (youth program)
173 – 1YS (youth program – ARRA stimulus)
316 – TAA (Trade Adjustment Assistance) (up from 126 in PY 07)
227 – 1D (dislocated worker program)
82 – 1DS (dislocated worker program – ARRA stimulus)
70 – 1A (adult program)
16 – 1AS (adult program – ARRA stimulus)
280 – Customers in classroom training for high growth occupations
(66 funded through ARRA stimulus)
131 – Incumbent workers trained

*PY08 runs from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009

McHenry County Workforce Network Staff

Workforce Investment Board

Carl Martens, Director
Nancy Sundstedt, Administrative Assistant

Management

Julie Courtney, Director
Mary Wolff, Assistant Director
Gerri Sherman, Fiscal Officer

Administration

Sandy Zieba, Fiscal Tech
Peggy Sarbaugh-McNally, Administrative Assistant

Adult Program

Chris Nejd, Adult Program Team Lead
Jim Pacholski, Business Services Team Lead
Linda Kasprzak, Business Services Specialist
Ralph Kulesza, Resource Room Specialist
Sara Lindsey, Career/Training Specialist, TAA
Dian Micklevitz, Workforce & Eligibility Specialist
Lori O'Brien, Career/Training Specialist, TAA
Jacquie Zerbel, Career/Training Specialist
Jeff Poynter, Career/Training Specialist

Youth Program

Gina Michelle, MA, Youth Workforce Specialist
Barbara Billimack, Youth Workforce Specialist
Tracy Butler, Youth Workforce Specialist