

Youth in the News

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GED Classes Open in New Madrid County

GED class is now available in New Madrid County. The AEL Certified GED class began February 8th through the partnership of the Workforce Investment Board, New Madrid School District, and Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education. The class is offered at the New Madrid High School Computer Lab on Monday through Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with GED instructors Debby Wiseman and Cathey Daniels. The New Madrid AEL Certified GED site will be supervised by Mr. George DeMyers, AEL Director at Susanna Wesley Family Learning Center in Mississippi County.

Debby Wiseman has been a

teacher for 30 years and currently teaches at New Madrid Middle School. She teaches Math and the Gifted Program. Ms. Wiseman teaches the New Madrid GED class on Monday and Wednesday nights.

Cathey Daniels has been a teacher for 32 years and also currently teaches at New Madrid Middle School. She teaches Art. Ms. Daniels teaches the New Madrid GED class on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

Both GED instructors state classes are going well. Class enrollment started off slow the first week the GED class was open due to the snowfall

received in the Southeast Region. Enrollment increased once the weather conditions improved. GED instructors Wiseman and Daniels have had several inquiries about the new GED class and look forward to enrollment increasing each week.

Upon enrollment, students are given a pretest to determine levels in Math, Reading, Language, and Writing. Students then can focus on areas that are in need of improvement.

Anyone interested in attending GED class in New Madrid can contact Cathey Daniels, New Madrid Middle School at (573)688-2176.

"Education is our greatest opportunity to give an irrevocable gift to the next generation."

~ Emie Fletcher

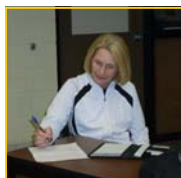


Debby Wiseman

New Madrid GED Teachers



Cathey Daniels



“Madison County Youth” Spotlight



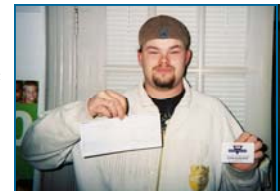
Madison County youth case manager Debi Hutson writes-In Madison County, several youth are receiving Occupational Skills Training in the medical field. This training has helped the youth in finding In-Demand occupations for employment. Area employers are benefiting from youth being placed at their worksites in the Work Experience Program and On-the-Job Training Program, and our trained youth are becoming in demand at their businesses.

Angel Hughes, a high school dropout that attends GED classes, participated in the Work Experience Program at the Baptist Home in Ironton as a Physical Therapist Aide. After the contract ended, the employer agreed to hire her if she became a Certified Nurse Aide (CNA). The WIA Youth Program has approved funds for her to enroll in the CNA classes at Unitec Career Center and she will begin classes soon. The employer went ahead and hired Angel full-time.

Ryan Kannenberg, a high school graduate, was given assistance with tuition to attend CNA classes at Unitec and classes will begin as soon as enough students are enrolled.



Harlee Edmonds, a high school dropout that was recently homeless, and Jimmy Burcham, a high school graduate, completed the Work Experience Program at ClaRu DeVille Nursing Center where they attended CNA classes, became CNA certified, and were hired full-time by the employer, Sheila Stacy.



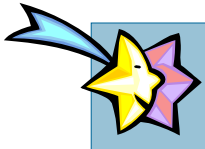
Jimmy Burcham

George Anderson, a high school dropout that was recently homeless, was hired as a Nurse Aide at ClaRu DeVille Nursing Center after completing a Work Experience in the Next-Generation Jobs Team Program last summer. George is now attending CNA classes and will have his clinical finished soon. He also recently received his GED after taking the test at Mineral Area College. George only missed the GED Scholarship by a few points and plans on retesting in a couple of months. He plans to pursue a nursing degree.



“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

~ Eleanor Roosevelt



“Madison County Youth” Spotlight Continued

Ceira Stacy, a parenting teen that expects to graduate from Fredericktown High School in May 2010, has already received a CNA certification. Ceira has been hired as a Personal Care Aide at Ozark Manor after briefly working there on the Work Experience Program.



Ashley Mascaro, a high school graduate and parenting teen, is attending Physical Therapist Assistance classes full-time at St. Louis Community College and expects to graduate in May 2011.

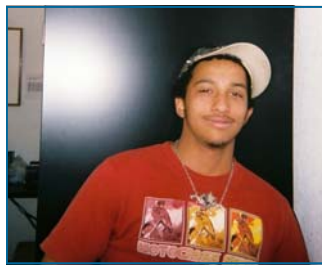


Lucas Vance, a high school graduate, is receiving tuition assistance from the WIA Youth Program. He is attending Emergency Medical Technician classes and expects to graduate in May 2010.

Jessica Scott and Joshua Obolla are also finding success with local employers in other occupations. Jessica, a high school graduate and parenting teen, was hired by Madison County Council for the Developmentally Disabled. On-the-Job Training funds are assisting the employer by paying part of her wages while she completes training. Jessica was recently certified as a Level One Medication Aide as part of her required training as a Personal Care Aide. Joshua is in school and is working at MOWEAR Motorsports on the Work Experience Program. He wants to go to welding school in the fall.



Jessica Scott



Joshua Obolla

The WIA Youth Program is providing these youth assistance with transportation expenses, required supplies, uniforms, scrubs, boots and shoes, professional clothing, books and other school supplies needed for training and employment.

“The world of achievement has always belonged to the optimist.”
~ Harold Wilkins





“Perry County Youth Program” Spotlight



Perry County youth case manager Sidney Hemmann writes-When young adults are enrolled in the MERS Goodwill Perry County Youth Program the Ansell Casey Lifeskills Assessment is administered. One area assessed is “Housing and Money Management”. Workshops are then developed to address weaknesses in the tested areas. Therefore, during the months of January and February, the monthly meetings and Seminars @ Noon have been focused on the housing needs of the participants.

One such meeting focused on “Renting: Expenses & Leases” so that participants could discuss comparable rental rates, differences and similarities in leases, lease requirements and how to obtain information regarding rental property prior to renting. After this session, the next training, “Renting My Own Apartment” provided information regarding renter’s insurance. Ellen Emmendorfer, owner of Emmendorfer Insurance Agency, provided the information for this workshop. The participants were given handouts for future use and were actively engaged in this informational evening.

During the most recent training, “Goal Setting” was addressed. Participants engaged in a goal setting activity and were then encouraged to select three goals that they would monitor for three months. A monthly checklist was provided. Participants commented “I have never set a goal before!” and “I never thought about setting goals!”. The youth were very vocal about what they thought was important in their lives and were making valuable comments as they related to goal setting and how it relates to good decision-making.

In March, as a follow up to the housing focus, the first monthly training will focus on “Buying Furniture”. The youth enrolled in the MERS Goodwill programs benefit from seminars and workshops that have been developed by the staff and shared agency wide. This ensures that our youth receive systematic and comprehensive training to address their tested weaknesses. We welcome you to visit a MERS Goodwill program near you to see these effective trainings in progress!

*“People with goals
succeed because they
know where they’re
going.”*

~Earl Nightingale

Budgeting



Housing



Goal Setting



Watch for spotlight stories
in the March 2010 issue
that will be featuring
Pemiscot County and
Ste. Genevieve County!





Bollinger	Workshop on "Shopping Smart" and Monthly Youth Meeting/ "Listening Habits"
Cape	Monthly Youth Meeting/ "JIST Publishing Soft Launch" and Work Readiness Classes
Dunklin	Quarterly Youth Meeting and workshop on "Renting My Own Apartment"
Iron	Workshops on "Motivation Part 4 with Mike Hester", "Career Change", "Time Management", "Feelings", "Self Control", "Conflict Resolution", "Employment/Relationships", "Getting Along with Co-workers", and "Problem Solving"
Madison	Workshops on "Credit Cards", "Credit Card Statement", "Repair Your Credit", "GED Practice Testing", "Money Mistakes", "Budgeting", "Identity Theft", "Filing Income Tax", "Surviving the Recession", and "TABE Testing"
Mississippi	Workshop on "Let's Buy A Car" and Monthly Youth Meeting
New Madrid	Monthly Youth Meeting and workshop on "Renting: Expenses and Leases"
Pemiscot	Monthly Youth Meeting and GED Scholars @ Work Classes
Perry	Monthly Youth Meeting/ "Renting: Expenses & Leases", Seminar @ Noon: "Goal Setting", and Work Readiness Classes
Scott	GED On-line, Work Readiness Classes, workshop on "Keeping it Real: Volunteering", Monthly Youth Meeting, and Youth Tutoring
St. Francois	Workshops on "Interviewing", "Working With Money", "Reading an Employee Pay Statement", "Safety on the Job", "Customer Service", "Using Math on the Job", "Attitude Adjusting", "Assessment", "Value of Education", "Volunteerism", "Job Search Strategies", and "Resume Review/Update"
Ste. Genevieve	Workshops on "Getting Along With Your Boss", "Pre-WorkKeys Test", "Life Decisions", "Thank You Letters", "Time Management", "Your Credit", "Getting Along with Difficult People", Investing", "Customer Service", "Dress for Success", and "References"
Stoddard	Monthly Youth Meeting



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Goodbye to "snowy" weather!

