

## Greetings!

New SuperJobs Center Director **Kevin Holt** plans to build on the successful outcomes the One Stop has achieved for several years while directing more funds into services for job seekers.

On July 1, Hamilton County Job and Family Services (HCJFS) assumed operational management of the SuperJobs Center, replacing ResCare Inc., a private company. Says Holt: "We plan to reduce funds devoted to administrative and overhead costs, and will redirect those funds to services such as training, wage subsidies, and transportation for job seekers."

Holt's goals for the current year include to enroll 750 adults into intensive services; enroll 200 customers into funded training; help to connect 450 core customers and 1,500 universal customers to jobs, and provide services to 200 employers.

Holt, who has worked at HCJFS for 20 years and was previously Workforce Section Chief, is being helped by his management team: **Tim Scott**, Career Coach Manager; **Chuck Walters**, Employer Services Manager; **Denise Becker**, Rapid Response Manager; **LaTrisha Payne**, One-Stop Operations Manager, and **Carolyn Reynolds**, Policy, Compliance and Quality Assurance Manager. Scott moved over from Hamilton County JFS, while the rest of the team was hired directly from ResCare and had worked at SuperJobs for several years.



*Chuck Walters, left, Denise Becker, LaTrisha Payne, Kevin Holt, Carolyn Reynolds and Tim Scott: New leadership team at SuperJobs Center.*

Holt expects this year to be one of transition. "Our hope is that we will have opportunities in this year to improve outputs and outcomes; that we will use dollars, time, and energy to find increasingly job-ready customers for the employers that we work with; that we will use those same resources to provide more tangible supports to the job seekers that need our help to remove barriers to employment," he says.

## YOUTH SPOTLIGHT: EASTER SEALS YOUTH EXPAND THEIR WORLD AT CHOIR GAMES

For several young people from Cincinnati's neighborhoods, the 2012 World Choir Games presented a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

They could join throngs of other Cincinnatians who decided to pitch in and make this an event to remember for thousands of visitors flocking to Cincinnati from around the globe during the first two weeks of July.

And that is just what they did. A dozen young people from Easter Seals TriState, who are part of a summer youth employment program funded through **Hamilton County Job and Family Services**, began working with a team from Duke Energy Convention Center in late June. They stuffed 16,000 backpacks for participants and volunteers, prepared 25,000 lanyards, and counted volunteer polo shirts. They helped to erect a stage at Duke. They delivered boxes to various halls at Duke. They went out to venue sites and helped set up risers for the choirs.

After the games began, they got up early in the morning to be at Duke at 6:30 a.m. to take vouchers and help serve breakfast for the choir members. They took a mid-morning break and were back on the job at 11:30 a.m. for lunch.



*Elexis Earles accepts vouchers from a Chinese choir.*

"It's been a great experience," says **Carol Young**, 19, of Walnut Hills. "We've been meeting different people from different cultures." Young and her friends, **LaRhonda Bostic**, 24, of Camp Washington; **Markeisha Elliott**, 20, of Walnut Hills, and **Elexis Earles**, 20, from the West Side, met choir members from China, Russia, the Bahamas, Australia, Columbia.

"They've been very friendly," says Markeisha. "They say it's beautiful here."

**Maggie Wheeler**, Director of Catering at Duke, says that having the team from Easter Seals made her complicated job just a bit easier. "They've been phenomenal," she says. In fact, Wheeler has asked the team back to assist her with catering for an upcoming convention of the Children's Defense Fund.

#### YOUTH SPOTLIGHT: JCG STUDENTS LEARN BASICS OF STARTING A BUSINESS



*JCG's E-Camp graduates*

The advent of summer was no time to goof off for 18 youth from **Jobs for Cincinnati Graduates** who immediately enrolled in a WIA-funded **Entrepreneurial Camp** at the **Cincinnati-Hamilton Community Action Agency**.

With a curriculum developed by **Willie Hill**, Executive Director of the **Greater Cincinnati Microenterprise Initiative**, the monthlong E-Camp immersed the students in the basics of entrepreneurship -- from developing a business plan to nuts and bolts of budgeting and credit, to finding a market, pricing a product and doing a SWOT analysis. Each day, classes were conducted by Hill or various mentors who led the students through scenarios they might encounter in a start-up.

The main lessons learned? "If your business does not make dollars, it makes no sense," says **James Watson**, a recent graduate of North College Hill High School.

During E-Camp, as part of a pilot project being conducted by the SWORWIB, the students took Work Keys assessments in Reading for Information, Locating Information and Applied Math. As a result, most of them will be awarded a Bronze, Silver or Gold National Career Readiness Certificate.

"These are impressive results," says **President Marshall**. "It demonstrates that the schools and JCG have done a good job preparing these youth for both the academic and work world." Marshall will present the results of this pilot to the State of Ohio as she and other workforce directors urge the state to adopt Work Keys testing for high school students and as a work-ready credential.

#### EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT: FIRE DEPARTMENT TEAMS UP WITH SUPERJOBS

The **Cincinnati Fire Department** has joined forces with the Employer Services team at the **SuperJobs Center** for the department's first major recruitment campaign since 2009.

Fire Department recruiter **Willie Jones** wants to expand the base of potential recruits as the Fire Department prepares for its first Training Academy in three years. With only 23 female firefighters in its ranks of 769, the department needs to bolster those numbers in particular, Jones says. But anyone with an interest in firefighting is encouraged and welcomed to apply to be a recruit, he stresses.

"SuperJobs is my new best friend," says Jones, noting that the One Stop has become a vital extension of the recruiting process. The Fire Department has used the computer lab at SuperJobs to allow applicants to register for the test. Minimum requirements are a high school diploma or GED, a driver's license, and an email address, says Jones. (For other requirements, visit the city of Cincinnati home page [www.cincinnati-oh.gov](http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov) under the Human Resources link.)



*Cincinnati Firefighter Brendon Arrick is among those helping to recruit at the SuperJobs Center.*

SuperJobs has opened its doors on Saturdays throughout July for study sessions facilitated by the **African American Firefighters Association** to better prepare applicants for the department exam on Aug. 4. If they pass the written exam, potential recruits must then pass a physical agility exam and an oral review before being admitted to the rigorous 24-week training.

"In my 28 years in the Fire Department, I have never seen this kind of outreach," says Jones, as he commended Employer Services Manager **Chuck Walters** and his team.

And, incidentally, as of mid-July, 249 women have applied for the exam.

For more information, contact the Cincinnati Fire Department at 513-687-7892.

#### EMPLOYERS FIRST CONNECTS WITH 150 BUSINESSES

More than 150 employers from the Tri-State have been contacted by **Employers First Regional Workforce Network** in the last few months, reports **Andrew Lotter**, Regional Liaison for

## Employers First.

As a result, many employers have utilized the services of the collaboration, allowing multiple One Stop centers to provide job candidates and a wider visibility for open positions.

Employers First is a collaboration of the region's four workforce investment systems. Identifying employers that may benefit from partnering with the region's public workforce systems is the first step in making the connection with employers. Many hours are spent reviewing business news relating to growth and expansions of the various employers throughout the region. "One Stop centers have been instrumental in helping us make the initial contact with employers," Lotter says. "These referrals allow us the opportunity to reach out to more employers."

Once initial contact has been established with employers, Employers First then meets with employers to discuss current needs and challenges, develop a plan, and connect various services throughout the region. During these initial meetings, employers also learn about local and regional workforce services, veterans services, tax credits and on-the-job training programs.

## SHORT TAKES



*Above, volunteers who helped make Construction Camp 2012 a success. Right, campers show off their work.*



**CONSTRUCTION CAMP A SUCCESS:** Thanks again to all who participated in the 2012 Construction Camp in Price Hill. The garden shed built in three weeks by our middle-schoolers was a akin to a charming cottage! Our gratitude again goes to the Spirit of Construction, the SC Ministry Foundation, the skilled trades workers from Associated Builders and Contractors, Resurrection School administrators, and all the volunteers who made this a wonderful experience for the children. Says Construction Industry Advocate **Anne Mitchell**: "We hope that this experience has planted a few seeds among these kids that construction careers offer many rewards -- not the least of which is the satisfaction of building something that will last for a long, long time."



**John Young and Sherry Kelley Marshall**

**SO LONG, FAREWELL:** **John Young**, longtime President/CEO of the Freestore Foodbank, retired in June. During his tenure from 2005-12, the number of meals distributed throughout Greater Cincinnati grew from 7.5 million to 16.6 million a year, and the number of people served grew to 144,000 annually. Young launched a number of initiatives, including the Kraft Mobile Pantry, Kids Cafe sites, and Power Pack, a program to feed children on weekends. Young was also a founding member of the SWORWIB and served as a board officer for several years.



**Yvette**

**CINCINNATI YOUTH COMMISSION HOLDS FIRST MEETING:** The Youth Commission of Cincinnati, led by Councilmember **Yvette Simpson** and Chairs **Greg Landsman** of the Strive Partnership, **Dr. Monica Mitchell** of Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Medical Center, and **Patricia**

**Simpson Waldsmith of the United Way of Greater Cincinnati**, held its first

meeting July 18. President Marshall is a member of the Commission, whose mission is to "act as a voice for the concerns of the youth within the City of Cincinnati, advise the Mayor and City Council on the needs of youth within the City of Cincinnati, and guide city leaders on decisions relating to youth concerns."

**MORE MERGERS: Easter Seals Work Resource Center and Jewish Vocational Services** merged July 1. The organization will now be known as **Easter Seals TriState**. Easter Seals is a longtime youth provider for Area 13 and the SWORWIB.

**IN THE NEWS:**

Moira Weir [blogs](#) about SuperJobs transition

Easter Seals WRC, Jewish Vocational Services [join](#) forces

National Fund for Workforce Solutions [spotlights](#) in June conference in Cincinnati

Andy Lotter of Employers First and Ross Meyer of Partners for a Competitive Workforce [speak](#) with Jeff Weber, former executive director of Workforce One of Southwest Ohio



Try it FREE today.