

Senior Employment Program of Winston-Salem Urban League makes positive impact

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

People often think of the Winston-Salem Urban League as an organization that advocates for civil rights and primarily serves younger urban clientele.

However, it is a senior program that the Urban League operates in 18 counties, which are primarily rural, that is making a major positive impact and improving the quality of life for mature adults.

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and Administered by Senior Service America, provides job readiness training, computer training, job search skills, paid work experience and job placement services for 230 seniors annually.

Seniors benefit from the skills and experience gained in host agency assignments and nonprofit agencies benefit from highly experienced and qualified mature adults placed in their agencies that increase their capacity to provide quality services to those most in need.

SCSEP is highly successful in achieving the ultimate goal of empowering seniors to develop the skills and experience to become gainfully employed.

Below are three of the seniors in the Urban League Senior Community Services Employment Program:

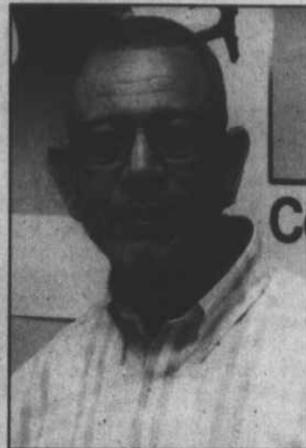
***Mildred Clinton**, a widow of a veteran is gain-



Clinton



Russell



Helms

"Participation in the program is rewarding and allows me to enhance my job skills and gain new skills."

— Mildred Clinton

ing experience and enhancing her skills at Hands On Northwest North Carolina as a participant in the Urban League Senior Community Services Employment Program. She is a valuable resource to Hands On, a non-profit organization that provides technical assistance for other nonprofits and also coordinates senior volunteer activities.

The host agency assignment provides opportunities for Clinton to enhance her computer skills and office practices. Her past work experience includes 38 years as a banking officer. Due to her strong work ethic she transitioned from reconciling clerk to Assistant Manager before retiring in 2010.

After several years, Clinton was ready to re-

enter the job market. She submitted several job applications but did not get a response. She enrolled in the Urban League Senior Community Services Employment Program for assistance in developing a professional resume, interview skills, job search training and information on industry trends.

Clinton says "Participation in the program is rewarding and allows me to enhance my job skills and gain new skills. The program helped to build my confidence to re-enter the workforce. The Urban League SCSEP is an excellent transition back into the workforce for persons who have been unemployed for a length of time."

She feels that the experience she is gaining will

prepare her for a clerical position in both the "for profit" and "nonprofit" sectors.

***Morris Russell** takes tremendous pride in his host agency assignment at the Fellowship Home. Through the Urban League SCSEP, Russell serves as the House Manager and provides oversight and supportive services for the residents in recovery.

Russell is particularly well-suited for this position having been a resident of the Fellowship Home himself. He has triumphed over multiple obstacles including addiction and incarceration due to some poor decisions.

His life has been completely transformed. To better prepare for employment, Morris obtained cer-

tification as a peer counselor. He was hired by the Urban League as a community educator with the P.O.S.S.E. program, a health and wellness project that the Urban League operates in partnership with the Forsyth County Department of Public Health.

He later enrolled in the Urban League Senior Community Service Employment Program. Morris was keenly focused and took advantage of the job readiness, job search and computer training while looking for full time employment.

The wages that Morris earned through the SCSEP provided income to cover his basic needs while he worked in the area that he is very passionate about.

Russell has proven to be a success story for the Urban League SCSEP. He is simply elated that he has recently landed his ideal job with RHA Health Services Inc.

***Rufus Helms** enrolled in the Urban League SCSEP in December 2014. After retiring from the Chesapeake Ohio Railroad

as an Operator Switchman and relocating to Winston-Salem, Helms was looking for an employment opportunity when he heard about the Urban League SCSEP.

After his assessment and Individualized Employment Plan was developed he was placed at H.A.R.R.Y., a veteran's outreach program as an office assistant. In that capacity, Helms manages incoming calls, greets veterans, and directs them to the appropriate source for services. Helms provides a valuable service to the non-profit which operates with minimal staff.

He is a welcome face for veterans who come to the agency seeking help with a variety of problems from getting their benefits, health care, housing, emergency assistance and other vital services. He is providing a valuable service to our most deserving clientele.

Because of his perseverance and strong work ethic Helms is destined to succeed and obtain gainful employment.

Seniors who are interested in enrolling in the Senior Community Service Employment Program and nonprofit agencies interested in having a participant assigned to their agency should contact the Urban League.

Employers who are seeking experienced and qualified individuals to fill their staffing needs should contact Patricia Sadler at the Urban League at 336-725-5614 or psadler@wsurban.org.

Supreme Court rejects N.C. appeal on election law

WASHINGTON (AP) —The Supreme Court has passed up an early chance to review a contested North Carolina election law that opponents say limits the ability of African-Americans to cast ballots.

The high court intervened in October to order that the law remain in effect for the fall elections after a lower court ruling blocking part of the law.

But the justices on Monday wiped away their earlier order by rejecting the state's appeal of that lower court ruling. The federal appeals court in Richmond, Virginia had blocked a part of the law that eliminated same-day registration during early voting in North Carolina.

A trial is set for July in the lawsuit filed by civil rights groups, and the issue of voting restrictions could return to the Supreme Court before the 2016 elections.

North Carolina is among several Republican-led states that have passed election laws imposing photo identification requirements and reducing the number of days set aside for early voting, among other provisions. Officials have said the measures are needed to prevent voter fraud. But critics have called the laws thinly veiled efforts to make it harder for Democratic-leaning minorities to vote.

The next elections in North Carolina are in September at the local level. The next statewide contest is the presidential primary in early 2016.



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