

Video Promotes Displaced Workers

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Encouraging American business to utilize the skills and talents of older women and non-traditional workers is the goal of a new campaign by the Displaced Homemakers Network (DHN), which represents more than 1,000 programs nationwide that provide employment and training services to 350,000 women each year. The centerpiece of the campaign is **PARTNERS IN CHANGE**, a new video developed by DHN and the American Association of Retired Persons that will be shown to business leaders throughout the nation this summer. It also includes a legislative initiative, launched June 1st when U.S. Senator Paul Simon (D-IL) introduced a bill to fund and expand state-run education, training and job placement services for women re-entering the work force.

DHN President Cheryl Brown Henderson said, "Women who reenter the work force late in life face barriers that cannot be overcome quickly or easily. As we near the year 2000, changes in America's labor pool will make it absolutely essential that we utilize non-traditional workers, including mid-life and older women."

PARTNERS IN CHANGE will be screened for personnel officers at businesses throughout the country this summer. It is a powerful 17-minute video that makes a strong case for hiring displaced homemakers. The video, which is narrated by Edwin Newman, won an award from the New York International TV & Film Festival. Displaced homemaker programs will use **PARTNERS IN CHANGE** over the next several months to encourage business leaders to utilize the skills offered by displaced homemakers in their communities.

Displaced homemakers are women who spend decades out of the paid work force, raising children and caring for families. In mid-life, they lose their main source of income through divorce, separation, death, disability, or long-term unemployment of a spouse, or loss of eligibility for public assistance. According to the 1980 Census, there are more than 11 million displaced homemakers in the U.S. and the number is not likely to decrease significantly in the near future.

"The composition of America's work force is changing rapidly and dramatically," Henderson said. "We have an aging labor pool, more employed women, and a growing shortage of younger workers. Although they may lack recent work experience, displaced homemakers

have the skills, attitudes and experience businesses need. Non-traditional workers are America's future, and we are determined to do everything possible to help business leaders recognize and prepare for that future."

Henderson, the Kansas Vocational Education Equity Coordinator, testified before a Senate Subcommittee in support of Simon's bill, the Displaced

Homemakers Training & Economic Self-Sufficiency Act of 1989, last week. She said, "Fifteen years after efforts were begun to assure that America's employment and training system serves displaced homemakers effectively, neither state nor federal programs are adequately addressing their needs. Only 23 states have appropriated funds for displaced homemaker pro-

grams, and a quarter of those have appropriated modest sums that can make only the most meager beginning toward helping displaced homemakers become economically self-sufficient. We are pleased that the Senate will consider this bill, which is a major step forward. We will work intensively to assure its passage."

Senator Simon said, "Millions

of women thought they would marry, have children and live happily ever after. But for many that dream ends with divorce or a husband's death or disability. Displaced homemakers have been forced into the role of family breadwinner. My bill is designed to help them become productive workers and achieve a decent quality of life for themselves and their families."

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Expanded Foods & Nutrition Educational Program



By Deborah Crandall

- ### Food Selection Considerations
- Getting more for your food dollars is of great importance. Some factors that influence food selections are:
- Money available.
 - Size, age, and activities of family members.
 - Storage and equipment.
 - Food likes and dislikes.
 - Season and locality.
 - Special diets.
 - Time for preparation.
 - Availability of stores in which to shop.
- Some ways of saving on food dollars are:
- Check newspaper ads.
 - Separate food from non-food items.
 - Avoid impulse buying.
 - Check price per serving.
 - Consider convenience foods.

These are just some factors to consider when starting to save more money on your food buying.

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is an integral part of the Mecklenburg County Agricultural Extension Service.

The purpose of EFNEP is to help limited resources families with improvement of their nutritional status. If you are interested in the EFNEP Program, call (336-4034) or write us at 700 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC 28202.

If you would like free Nutrition and Food demonstrations, please call 336-4034.

Deborah M. Crandall, Area Agent, EFNEP Meck. Co. Agricultural Extension Service, 700 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC 28202. Telephone: 336-4034.

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