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THE DOWNTOWNER

Randy's Ramblings...

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Legacy... Passing the Baton

We are kicking off a new program in February that is sure to please neighborhood teens. If you are between the ages of 15 and 18, then you may be eligible for Legacy, a program that pays teens to learn! Yes you heard that right! Many teens today lack the basic skill sets, experiences and work ethics desired by employers to compete with college-bound students and retired seniors in today's job market. In an effort to equal the playing field, Legacy utilizes the life-long experiences of senior citizens to in teaching these critical skill sets. Areas to be included are: personal hygiene, customer service, punctuality, acceptable workplace language, first impressions, attention to detail, appropriate attire, accountability, active listening, assertiveness, learning styles, teamwork, negotiation, conflict resolution, resumes, references, applications, and interviewing techniques.

In addition to classroom instruction, Legacy provides opportunities for trainees to practice their newly learned skills in simulated workplaces with their fellow applicants and senior mentors. Legacy will be held at YES Cinema beginning about 30 minutes after school, therefore creating additional positive after-school opportunities for applicants. Here's the good news...all participants, trainees and instructors (both youth and seniors) will be paid. This should ensure greater participation and commitment. Classes will generally last four weeks, followed by two weeks at the potential worksites. Legacy is open Monday through Thursday. One-hundred percent attendance is expected.

Collaborators include Senior Center Services, Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation C4 Program, Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, Council for Youth Development and Indiana Department of Workforce Development. These organizations reflect the backbone of Legacy and each are committed to working with each other to pass on a legacy of values, strong work ethics and positive youth development. Ultimately, it is our hope that Legacy "graduates" are better received by employers and, in turn, business will know that they are getting individuals who have been trained for success and have shown the ability to work with others in a productive, healthy workplace environment. Additionally, youth, who have historically gone from job to job without any accountability, will find it more difficult to continue these poor habits throughout the Columbus business network. And, even more importantly, Legacy becomes the official job-referral agency for youth creating greater credibility and accountability for youth of all ages.

Interested??? Give LCNFC a call at 379-1630 or e-mail us at info@lcnfc.org.

~ Randy Allman

Building tomorrow's neighborhoods... TODAY!

THE DOWNTOWNER is a monthly newsletter for the Lincoln-Central Neighborhood Family Center. Our office is located at 1039 Sycamore St. See our enclosed calendar for the activities and programs that you or your family might be interested in or jump online at www.lcnfc.org. Please call the LCNFC at 379-1630 for additional information.