

Success Spotlight: Donita Gill

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Program: SCSEP

Location: St. Joseph County

STORY

Donita Gill began visiting the South Bend WorkOne Center in June of 2020 for job readiness and job search assistance. She wanted to improve her computer skills in preparation for employment and found great value in the free workshops available at WorkOne. However, Donita was still struggling to find a job.



In January 2021, she was introduced to Matilda Seals, whom had experience as a participant staff member for the Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP). SCSEP assists jobseekers age 55 and older (unemployed and classified as low income) secure paid training opportunities through community service assignments.

SCSEP jobseekers upskill or reskill at local non-profits or government agencies called Host Agencies, while they simultaneously provide community service hours to that agency. The end goal of the program is that the SCSEP Jobseeker develop skills that enable that individual to transition to unsubsidized employment off the program.

Donita was referred to SCSEP and after completing the enrollment process, she entered a Train @ Home assignment with SCSEP due to health restrictions at the time.

Donita remained diligent with her Train @ Home activities throughout 2021 and into 2022, and in April 2022, she was offered an opportunity for an in-person Community Service Assignment with United Religious Community of St. Joseph County (URC). URC needed someone to provide front-end service, help organize a backlog of paperwork that had accumulated during the COVID-19 pandemic and update a document filing system.

After meeting Donita, URC representatives thought she was a perfect fit for their organizational needs.

Since bringing her onboard, Donita's supervisor and others have reached out to the SCSEP program director on numerous occasions to praise their new employee's professionalism and work ethic.

Donita says being a SCSEP jobseeker and being placed at URC has impacted her life in a profound way. She also says her computer skills have improved and she has become more comfortable with technology.

Donita looks forward to putting her new skills to work in an unsubsidized employment opportunity when the time comes