

Summer Work Experience at The Stock Pile

The Stock Pile, a nonprofit building material reuse store developed by the RPC, has hosted a variety of volunteers and job training clients over its long history, and this



summer was no different. Over the course of summer break, The Stock Pile (TSP) teamed up with various organizations, including Advanced Employment Connections (AEC). According to Jason Hmiel, a teacher and coach who works during the summer as a job coach for AEC, the program is designed to help clients overcome barriers in achieving their vocational goals. There is a focus on treating clients with dignity and respect. Hmiel works very closely with clients the first week, then gradually steps back to observe how things are going. He turns in reports weekly, evaluating strengths and weaknesses, and coaching

the clients on areas needing work. His final report notes if it appears they are ready to work independently, or if perhaps another round of job training might be needed. This summer, three young men completed the five-week training program.

At TSP, the young men helped unload donated building materials from the truck,

recorded prices on new inventory and assisted with shelving items under the guidance of the warehouse staff. They worked 12 hours per week and were paid through AEC's program, costing TSP nothing but time involved in guiding them in the workplace. Hmiel noted that he had clients going through job training at Ziegler Tire and at Massillon Discount Outlet as well. While TSP had been assigned teen clients this summer, the AEC's program is available to older persons as well. The Stock Pile was delighted to partner with Advanced Employment Connections, and other job training programs in the area. Giving clients the opportunity to enter the workforce in a



training situation and developing soft skills needed for future employment is a help to them, and any extra labor that comes to The Stock Pile is always appreciated. When asked, both young men said they liked working at The Stock Pile and lived nearby, and were hoping maybe to get hired someday. If interested in volunteering at The Stock Pile or using TSP as a job training site, call 330-455-4585 and ask for the manager for further information.