



Nestled along the banks of the mighty Mississippi River beneath towering limestone bluffs is the **Workforce Development, Inc. - Goodhue County Office**. The staff at WDI are dedicated to developing and advancing the workforce to meet the current and future needs of communities throughout Goodhue County.

Read more about the outstanding work being done in Goodhue County.

Job Fairs:

Since the beginning of January 2018, the Red Wing Office has had numerous requests from employers to either set up recruiting/job fairs to be held at the WorkForce Center and/or asking us to post flyers about their recruiting events being held at their site. Since January 2018, we have hosted 18 recruiting events.

Since this work used to be done by a state representative, we needed to and did establish a consistent process to assist employers. We met with Marleen Lundberg just to gather some ideas and learned about options she knew about to set up a successful recruiting event. One of the new pieces is called GovDelivery. GovDelivery is a service that is available to distribute information to geographically specific customers through email. The email used comes from www.minnesotaworks.net when the job seeker sets up an account. For questions and /or more information, please contact Mary Onsgard at the Rochester WorkForce Center (Phone: 507.923.2828).

Digital Literacy Classes - Partnership with Hiawatha Valley Adult Education:

For several years, Adult Basic Education (ABE) has been holding Digital Learning classes at the Red Wing Library. The classes are usually held each week and new people can start anytime. If a person wants to attend, they fill out an ABE referral at the WorkForce Center, and it is scanned and emailed to the ABE to contact the person. A teacher assesses a person's starting point and then works with them to advance past the starting point to learn basic computers, typing, emailing, and much more.

We have many people who are having trouble navigating computers to file for Unemployment Insurance and job searching, so this has been one option we have used. We also like to refer a person to use free computer websites such as www.gfclearnfree.org.

Tri-City Bridges Initiative:

The Minnesota Correctional Facility-Red Wing (MCF-RW) is part of a Tri-City Bridges initiative (Faribault and Northfield locations make up the rest of the initiative), with the target focus being incarcerated, juvenile males. The program was developed in Red Wing and is a partnership with Minnesota State College Southeast and Workforce Development, Inc. It focuses on delivering a Manufacturing 101 class, a Soft Skills class, and an OSHA 10 certificate class several times a year.

The youth are selected for the class through MCF-RW's school system and then meet with a Bridge Mentor who helps them through the process of enrolling and developing a plan/goal for their release. The Bridge Mentor is available to them throughout the process of completing the class, helping them

navigate pitfalls and develop confidence in their plan. This class is three weeks long, and the youth receive two college credits and an OSHA 10 certificate upon successful completion.

The Bridge Mentor continues to meet with the youth after the classes are completed. The main focus is on job search, post-secondary exploration/participation, and developing wraparound services to help overcome barriers that they will come up against once they are released from incarceration. The Bridge Mentor continues to follow the youth to offer support and guidance with their continued success in the community.

Goodhue County Homeless Response Team:

Workforce Development, Inc. (WDI) - Red Wing office has long had a staff member actively involved in these meetings, and now WDI is the host site each month. The team consists of several area, county, and city groups that deal with housing issues or helping connect clients to housing resources. Examples of the different workplaces for team members include: Workforce Development, Inc.; Red Wing Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA); Three Rivers Community Action – housing; HOPE Coalition – housing; United Way of Goodhue, Wabasha, and Pierce counties; Red Wing Youth Outreach; Goodhue County Health and Human Services; Commonbond Communities; First Choice Clinic; City of Red Wing; Habitat for Humanity; Goodhue County Jail; The Connecting Connection; and ProAct.

The next projects for this team include: Homeless Counts (that are a factor in determining housing funding for the area), and the Project Community Connect, winter coat/boots/mittens give away and resource fair (this event also includes a free hot meal, free haircuts, and flu shots).

United Way Poverty Simulations:

The Poverty Simulation provides participants with the opportunity to assume the role of a low-income family member living on a limited budget. The purpose is to demonstrate how a family or person living close to or under the poverty line may survive day to day. Red Wing Workforce Development, Inc. staff has participated in the presentation of nearly every simulation presented by the United Way of Goodhue, Wabasha & Pierce counties by filling specific roles as designed for by this program. Simulations have been presented to area business leaders, court staff, HRA staff, staff of many schools in the service area, county staff, Red Wing city staff, the community at large and others. At each event WDI staff is introduced and able to inform the participants of our agency role in helping people in the area connect to jobs and resources.

Best Practices:

Pam Erickson, Career Planner, has been working with the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), Diversionary Work Program (DWP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult, and Dislocated Worker (DW) programs for the past year in Red Wing. Prior to working in Red Wing, Pam worked in WDI's Caledonia office for eleven years.

Best Practices example: Minnesota Unemployment holds their Re-employment sessions in the Red Wing WorkForce Center every other Friday. People in these sessions may be eligible for the Dislocated Worker (DW) Program, so Pam presents a brief summary of the DW Program at the beginning of each session and then offers a DW Orientation/Resume Workshop the following week for those who may be interested in enrolling in the DW Program and/or need assistance with developing a resume. This process has helped serve those who may be interested in enrolling quicker and also help those who want resume writing assistance right away.

Submitted by the Staff at WDI Red Wing Office