



PRESS RELEASE



PRESS RELEASE

NEW YOUTH SUMMER PROGRAM LAUNCHES IN MANCHESTER

A new Youth Summer Employment Program, Project New Life, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act starts in Manchester on Monday June 29 with the full compliment 45 eligible participants. The nine-week program created by Manchester based Workforce Training Resources in partnership with a range of Manchester youth agencies and non-profits is attracting national attention.

Director of Youth Services, for the City of Manchester, Marty Bolding believes that the Project New Life program will put Manchester and New Hampshire at the cutting edge of youth job skills and employability programs. Bolding says, "This is a unique program and has enormous potential to create a new national landscape in job skills training for challenged young adults. We are so fortunate to have this launch in Manchester."

The program provides for four-weeks of intensive, immersion employability and job skills training and is followed by five-weeks of work based learning at a number of Manchester based employers. The selected participant receive a wage of \$7.25 per hour for the full period of the nine weeks and are taught and expected to exhibit employability and workplace skills during the full program.

Starting with a week of team building, leadership and communication skills training, participants move to a nationally acclaimed SkillsUSA Technology Based Employability Skills Program that covers an array of critical job skills. Participants then complete a week of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math remedial activities in a dynamic robotics and automation environment create by Intelitek Inc, another Manchester based company and a world leader in technology education.

A Workforce Training Resources Community Partnership

Trainees then move to the Greater Manchester Chapter of the Red Cross to complete a week of Life and Career Success Skills which includes certification in CPR and First Aid and Personal Financial Management.

Over 100 people attended a barbecue organized by the Salvation Army in Manchester to enable families to meet the Project New Life Program staff and participate in a briefing for the trainees.

"It's amazing how our community has come together to make this opportunity for challenge young adults possible", said Patrick van Rooyen, the CEO and a founding partner of Workforce Training Resources. Van Rooyen, a Manchester native for 12-years, designed the Project New Life program and spent six-years running and managing award-winning Career Academies in New England for the US DOL Job Corps program.

"The City of Manchester Office of Youth Services, the Salvation Army, the Making-It-Happen Coalition, Red Cross, the Boys and Girls Club, the City Parks and Recreation Department, other agencies and a growing number of employers have partnered with us and can see the potential in this project", he said. "With nearly 50,000 unemployed in New Hampshire and the largest proportion of those young adults, Project New Life enables our youth coming from the most challenging of financial circumstances an opportunity to gain essential and critical job skills, work based experience and connections with employers."

Van Rooyen cautioned of challenges and meeting expectations. "We have an excellent staff team for Project New Life and committed partners including employers, however, we are also working with young adults that in many cases have had little or no guidance in the behaviors, the dress standards or level of commitment employers expect from their employees." He said that trainees will have to seize the opportunities offered by Project New Life and learn that they may need to change many ideas and habits to gain jobs and build careers.

Workforce Training Resources is now working closely with a team from both Nashua North High School and Nashua South High School and the Nashua Red Cross Chapter to launch a second Project New Life Program in Nashua. The program immediately drew praise from education officials in Nashua who are working at giving participants high school credit for the work they undertake on the summer program.

A Workforce Training Resources Community Partnership

Contact Info:

www.Projectnewlifenh.com

Liz Tremblay (603) 624-6470
Outreach and Recruiting

Patrick van Rooyen (603) 674-3540
CEO

Kayrn Meagher (603) 204-4269
Nashua
projectnewlifenashua@comcast.net

Workforce Training Resources
848 Elm Street, Manchester, New Hampshire 03104