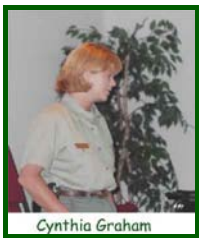


Rep. Barbara Reece Plans Tour of NW Georgia

Representative Barbara Massey Reece is sponsoring a September 20 - 21 tour of Northwest Georgia by the Georgia House Committee on Economic Development and Tourism. The tour will include visits to existing and emerging industries and tourism sites selected by Floyd, Chattooga, and Walker County Chambers of Commerce. The purpose of this tour is to enlist statewide support for Northwest Georgia tourism and business development.

NG Employer Committee News

Special guests at the July North Georgia Employer Committee meeting, serving Fannin, Gilmer, and Pickens Counties, were Cynthia Graham from the United States Department of Agriculture and Alex Westbury from the Georgia Department of Labor Vocational Rehabilitation Services.



Cynthia Graham

Ms. Graham manages the Senior Community Service Employment Program, established in 1973 under the Economic Opportunity Act to foster and promote part-time opportunities in community service activities for low income persons aged 55 years or

older. The program also assists older workers in transitioning to unsubsidized employment.

This program will recruit participants and make eligibility determinations, subsidize salary 100% for the first month and 50% for the following 8 weeks and assist employers with matching potential employees with available job opportunities. Statistics reflect that older employees have lower turn over rates and less absenteeism and have strong work ethics. Should you be interested in the program you may contact Ms. Graham at the Forest Service office at (706)-632-3031 Ext. 100 or leave a message at the Department of Labor Career Center at (706) 632-2033.



Alex Westbury

Mr. Westbury of the Vocational Rehabilitation Services outlined the services offered by his agency. The department offers job training, preparation, and placement for people with disabilities. Their goal is to assist people with entering, reentering or remaining in the workplace. The

group is also available to conduct seminars and training as related to ADA, assistance with Injured employees and other disability related issues. For additional

information concerning Vocational Rehabilitation services, employers and employees may contact the account representatives through the Career Center at (706) 632-2033.

The North Georgia Employer Committee meets monthly on the first Tuesday in each month. All employers are invited to attend. For additional information, please contact Lisa Adkisson, Career Center Manager, at (706) 632-2033.

FREE OSHA 2-Day Training in Macon

Gadsden State Community College, in collaboration with Priority Two, Inc., is offering a free OSHA funded 2-Day Safety & Health Management Systems Workshop September 20 & 21 in Macon, Georgia. The workshop is intended for business owners, managers, and decision makers who can influence and impact whether their companies implements all or part of the OSHA Safety & Health Management Systems.



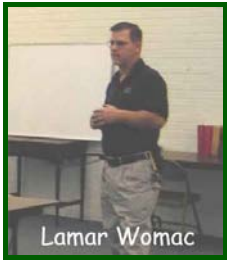
Some of the topics covered in the 2-day workshop include Safety & Health Payoffs; Time, Money & Personnel Investment; Worksite Evaluation; Self Evaluation & Strategic Plans; Case Studies; Safety & Health Check-Up; Realistic Goals - Creating Change; Hazard Analysis Methodologies, and much more.

The workshop is sponsored by Macon Occupational Medicine & Goodwill Industries of Middle Georgia. It will be held at the Goodwill Industries Career & Conference Center, 5171 Eisenhower Parkway in Macon. The training hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. both days.

For information or to register for the workshop, call Mari Chandler, Paula Watkins, or Richard Harper at 256.831.3139 or toll free at 888.84.8958. You may also e-mail Mari Chandler at mari@prioritytwo.com.

~~ Adversity doesn't build character, it reveals it. ~~

The Business Informer... a quarterly publication of the Northwest Georgia WIB and the Coosa Valley / North Georgia Council of Chief Elected Officials. For more information about our business services contact Gwen Dellinger, Workforce Development Director, 706.295.6485 or 800.332.1965 or Karen Howell, Workforce Development Coordinator, 706.277.7466, Vandy88@aol.com. Suggestions or articles to contribute - contact Karen.. -- An Equal Opportunity Program.



Womac of Dalton Utilities Trains Students

Lamar Womac with Dalton Utilities is volunteering four hours per month to teach Endless Opportunities students about computers. He is providing the training while on Dalton Utilities time as part of the utilities' community involvement

effort. The students are learning about the effective use of computers for communication, specialized vocabulary, software and hardware, as well as receiving hands-on experience.

Endless Opportunities, located in Dalton, works with youth who have dropped out of school, providing GED and job readiness skills training. They are funded by the Northwest Georgia Workforce Investment Board (WIB). The staff and WIB are proud of the many young people who have gone on to successful careers - including a best selling author!

For more information about Endless Opportunities and their youth program, contact Chris Johnson at 706.275.0545. For information about the other youth programs sponsored by the Northwest Georgia WIB, contact Wanda Williams at 706.295.6485 or 800.332.1965.

Healthy Solutions Workshop

Catoosa, Chattooga, and Walker County Chambers of Commerce, in collaboration with Northwest Georgia Public Health, presents "Healthy Solutions," a workshop to help business owners and company decision makers curtail their steadily rising health care costs.

The FREE workshop will be held Wednesday, September 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Colonnade in Ringgold, Georgia. The workshop is sponsored by Hutcheson Occupational & Community Wellness, Erlanger Workforce Occupational Health, Northwest Georgia Regional Cancer Coalition, Georgia Public Health Tobacco Use Prevention, and Chronic Disease Prevention Initiative.

Attendees of the workshop will learn how to:

- Utilize naturally existing medical community resources
- Create innovative approaches to employer health plans that can dramatically reduce yearly cost increases in the face of record profits for insurance companies
- Use the Georgia Worksite Wellness Assessment tool (creates a data-driven baseline so that organizations can make rational and effective decisions)

Reservations are required for the workshop. Call 706.965.5201 to reserve your space.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Seeks Mentors

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Northwest Georgia Mountains is recruiting positive role models as mentors for ninth grade students at Southeast and Dalton High Schools in Dalton, Georgia. This will be BBBS's third year of partnering with Southeast High School in their Project Success mentoring program. This will be their first year working with Dalton High.



BBBS recently surveyed parents, mentors, and teachers to rate the success of the program. The responders indicated that students showed improvements in over 20 areas. A few examples are: self confidence - 92%; able to express feelings - 93%; can make decisions - 85%; has interests or hobbies - 85%; personal hygiene, appearance - 74%; and sense of the future - 81%.

For complete survey results or to obtain more information about mentoring and Project Success, contact Donna Pursley, Case Manager, BBBS of Northwest Georgia Mountains, Dalton, 706.278.0702. Donna will be glad to come to your work place if you have a group of employees who are interested in becoming mentors. As Donna noted, "Giving of your time to invest in our future is a worthwhile and rewarding experience."

Shaw, Inc. & America's Job Bank

Right: Carol Drinks, Georgia Department of Labor, trains Shaw employees on how to effectively use America's Job Bank (www.ajb.dni.us)



Did you know that America's Job Bank can help you to quickly find the right people for your job openings? Utilizing American's Job Bank you can:

- Post a Job
- Obtain help in writing your job descriptions
- Search for Resumes
- Use Resume Scouts to set up an automated search to find potential employees

Interested in learning more? Contact your local Career Center Employer Representative to make arrangements for on-site training for your employees: Blue Ridge - 706.632.2033; Cartersville - 770.387.3760; Cedartown - 770.749-2213; Dalton - 706.272.2301; Fort Oglethorpe - 706.861.1990; LaFayette - 706.638.5525; and Rome - 706.295.6051.