

EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEER

Many older adults continue to work past retirement. Currently, the average life expectancy for those who reach age 65 in the United States is 84. If you consider taking early retirement as allowed by Social Security at age 62, will you have the financial resources to support yourself for 20 or more years?

Why keep working?

- Almost half of homeowners over age 62 have a mortgage
- Many have not successfully saved enough to maintain the same lifestyle
- Waiting to take Social Security until age 70 can boost those earnings significantly
- Some retirees suffer depression as a result of the lack of routine and purpose once they stop working
- Work prevents isolation and can provide socialization and mental stimulation
- Working can keep you mentally and physically healthy
- Once a person begins collecting Social Security and other retirement income, they may have the option to begin a new career based on interest rather than income

Volunteering can also offer the opportunity to remain active and engaged, and allows retirees to utilize and contribute the skills they have gained over a lifetime. Churches, schools, hospitals, nursing facilities and other service agencies often rely on volunteers who are willing to give their time and share their expertise.

The following resources assist older adults who wish to obtain meaningful employment, make a career change or find an enriching volunteer opportunity.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)

Has a three-fold mission:

- Provide employment services to all Illinoisans utilizing technology and coordinated efforts within a statewide network of employment centers. Performs outreach efforts to link employers with job seekers. Special services are geared to address the needs of older workers and veterans.
- Collects and analyzes employment and unemployment data, occupational and wage statistics to assist in development of public policy
- Efficiently administers and monitors Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Not all services are available at the local offices listed below. For further assistance, visit www.ides.illinois.gov or call **1-800-244-5631, 1-866-322-8357 (TTY)**

North Aurora – 2 Smoke Tree Plaza
Elgin – 30 DuPage Court
Lisle - 2525 Cabot Drive
Maywood – 1701 S. 1st Avenue, Suite 10

workNet DuPage Career Center
2525 Cabot Drive, Suite 302
Lisle, IL 60532
(630) 955-2030
(630) 955-2098 (TDD)
www.worknetdupage.org



A partnership of DuPage County Workforce Development Division, College of DuPage, Illinois Dept. of Employment Security, Parents Alliance Employment Project, National Able Network and the Illinois Dept. of Human Services(DHS) and Division of Rehab Services(DRS) striving to help people get back to work. Services include:

- Job Search Resource Room with internet access, fax and job search resources
- Workshops such as Job Search Boot Camp, Job Search Strategies, etc.
- Job Club
- Career Assessment
- Occupational Training Grants
- Youth Services including paid internships and training scholarships

Senior Community Service Employment Program

The Senior Community Service Employment Program is a federally funded employment program designed to assist the mature worker (age 55+) in re-entering the job market. It operates under a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. Participants build skills and self-confidence working part-time for community service organizations. Apply through one of these offices:

Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging
245 W. Roosevelt Road, Bldg. 6
West Chicago, IL 60185
(815) 939-0727, or 1-800-528-2000
www.ageguide.org

Jewish Vocational Services
10 E. 22nd Street
Lombard, IL 60148
(630) 261-9324

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

DuPage County Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

421 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187

(630) 407-6500

This program provides advocacy for residents of long term care facilities. Volunteers visit local nursing homes to provide socialization for residents, as well as advocate for their rights. Volunteers may be friendly visitors as well as assist with complaint investigations. For more information, contact **DuPage County Senior Services** at the number above.

DuPage County Money Management Program

421 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187

(630) 407-6500

Volunteers are trained and supervised to assist seniors having difficulty managing their money. A component of the Community Care Program, these services are also available to victims of abuse. Volunteers will help organize papers, establish a budget, pay bills and balance a checkbook. For more information, see page CS-3 or call **DuPage County Senior Services** at the number listed.

DuPage Senior Citizens Council (DSCC)

1990 Springer Drive, Lombard, IL 60148

(630) 620-0804

www.dupageseniorcouncil.org

Volunteer opportunities are available to deliver meals to the homebound elderly, assist at Senior Dining Centers, help in spring and fall with Chore Days, or other activities that benefit older adults. Volunteers ensure that DSCC programs are available to all DuPage County seniors in need. See **NUTRITION** page 103.

Giving DuPage

421 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187

(630) 407-6500

1-800-942-9412

(630) 407-6502 (TDD)

www.givingdupage.org



This program encourages giving and volunteering in DuPage County. It assists individuals seeking volunteer opportunities by providing referrals to local agencies who can utilize their talents and skills. Giving DuPage also publishes an Annual Giving Guide. For more information, go to **www.givingdupage.org**.

In-Home Senior Respite Program
Metropolitan Family Service DuPage County
222 E. Willow Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187
(630) 784-4875
www.metrofamily.org

Volunteers are recruited, trained and supervised to offer respite to family caregivers and companionship for the care recipient. Volunteers typically provide three hours of respite, and do not perform any medical or professional services. See page 58 for more details.

Hospice volunteers provide valuable services to persons and families dealing with the end-of-life process. Responsibilities can include: listening as a patient shares memories, feelings, fears, filling in to give a family caregiver short, needed respite, offering families reassurance and comfort, providing administrative support in the offices, running errands, performing light housekeeping chores, visiting patients in nursing homes or taking a patient on an outing. For a list of hospice providers in the area, see page 62.

Hands On Suburban Chicago (HOSC)
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
2121 S. Goebbert Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005
(847) 228-1320
www.volunteerinfo.net



HOSC inspires, equips and mobilizes people to volunteer and take action to support their communities. HOSC recruits and places volunteers with non-profits in need of help and trains non-profit staff in volunteer and non-profit management. Serves 45 towns and villages in North and Northwest suburbs of Chicago.

Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)
1444 N. Farnsworth, Room 504, Aurora, IL 60505
(630) 375-6026
www.scorefoxvalley.org

Volunteer organization of successful business people who provide free assistance to small businesses and to those considering starting a business. SCORE counseling sites in DuPage County include Aurora, Bloomingdale, Elmhurst, Lisle, Naperville and Wheaton, and can be accessed through local Chamber of Commerce offices.

**Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP)
Illinois Department on Aging**

One Natural Resources Way, Suite 100
Springfield, IL 62702-1271

(800) 252-8966

www.illinois.gov/aging/ship



Staff and volunteer counselors are trained to educate consumers about Medicare, Medicare supplements, Part D plans, Medicare HMOs, long term care insurance, Medicaid and other senior health insurance options. They can also assist in filing Medicare claims and help investigate disputes. Counselors must be affiliated with a sponsoring organization. These sponsors provide office space and support services. SHIP counselors do NOT sell or solicit any type of insurance. For more information, and local sites, call **DuPage County Senior Services** at **(630) 407-6500**.