

FSS

JOURNAL

Fall 2017

FREE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

COVENANT HOUSE ACADEMY 50 Antoine Street SW

This alternative charter school is enrolling students ages 16-22 who are seeking a high school diploma. Covenant House Academy is tuition free and offers open enrollment and a self-paced environment that allows students to recover credits and develop knowledge and life skills. For more information: (616) 364-2000.

ESL CLASSES AT ROOSEVELT PARK MINISTRIES 1530 Grandville Avenue SW

Beginning and intermediate ESL classes are offered as well as weekly one-on-one tutoring. Placement test required before enrollment in an ESL class. For more information: (616) 475-5881.

SPANISH CLASSES AT ROOSEVELT PARK MINISTRIES 1530 Grandville Avenue SW

Spanish language classes are available to Kent County residents. Classes focus on speaking, comprehending and becoming literate in Spanish. For more information: (616) 475-5881.



GRAND RAPIDS HOUSING COMMISSION
Family Self-Sufficiency Program
1420 Fuller Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
616/235-2600



A Great New Career Begins with a Plan!

Looking for a new career opportunity? The following local organizations offer programs and services that can help you take action to achieve your goals:

JUBILEE JOBS

Jubilee Jobs provides access to GED Preparation workshops and testing as well as employment-related services. Located in Baxter Community Center at 935 Baxter Street SE, Jubilee Jobs is part of an Employment Services Collaborative that also includes Hope Network, Goodwill, the Women's Resource Center, the Hispanic Center, United Church Ministries, the Literacy Center of West Michigan and Disability Advocates. These partners work together to help remove employment barriers by offering career coaching and programs that address education and employment readiness, career opportunities for the disabled, job placement, financial skills development, professional clothing needs, and language barriers. For more information: (616) 774-9944, www.jubileejobsgr.org.

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

Located at 678 Front Street NW, Suite 180, the Women's Resource Center offers career services and workshops for women, including career coaching,

employability and life skills workshops, help writing a resume and cover letter, computer classes, access to a copier, printer and computers for online job searches, and a Working Women's Clothing Closet. For more information: (616) 458-5443, www.grwrc.org.

WEST MICHIGAN CENTER FOR ARTS & TECHNOLOGY (WMCAT)

WMCAT offers a tuition-free adult career training program that's open to those who have a high school diploma or GED, live in Kent County, receive some form of public assistance and have no felony record. Training programs include Medical Billing, Medical Coding and Pharmacy Technology. Weekly information sessions for fall 2018 enrollment will be offered in February—register for a session online at www.wmcat.org/adult-programs/how-to-enroll.

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY (GRPL)

GRPL makes it easy to build your computer skills! The library offers free computer classes September through May as well as one-on-one "Speak to a Geek" computer sessions that provide individualized learning. For details: www.grpl.org/computer.

Employers Value Life Skills!



Life skills are abilities and behaviors that help you effectively deal with the events and challenges of everyday life. If you are looking for employment, be aware that almost every employer is looking for the skills listed below. When you make it clear to a potential employer that you possess these skills—through your resume, cover letter and job interview—you will maximize your chances of being hired!

Cooperation

The ability to get along with others and work as part of a team is critical to not only landing but also keeping a job.

Communication

The ability to convey information to others—verbally, in writing and through body language—are important in any workplace. Demonstrate that you will be able to communicate effectively with your boss, your co-workers and your customers.

Decision Making

Employers want employees who can analyze situations, weigh options and then make decisions on important matters.

Handling Criticism

It is important that an employee have the ability to receive feedback thoughtfully and to grow and adjust behavior based on that input. Self-awareness, thoughtfulness and professionalism are all key to this skill.

Information Technology

Computer and phone skills are critical for almost every job. Be prepared to use common computer programs such as Microsoft Word and Excel—see resources for learning these on the front page!

Congratulations, FSS Program Graduates!



Fall 2017 Family Self-Sufficiency Program graduates celebrate during a special event in the Sheldon Apartments Community Room.

Congratulations to our summer Family Self-Sufficiency Program graduates:

Roshidamarques Blakley

Barbara Johnson

Trudy Samukai

Natalie Clark

Vernetta Johnson

Shawnte Wright

Latoya Dukes-Troupe

District Court Warrant, Traffic & Parking Ticket Waiver Program

The Kent County District Courts are offering a waiver program for anyone who has outstanding criminal and/or traffic warrants for non-compliance with a court order of fines, fees, court costs and any outstanding traffic or parking tickets that have gone into default or suspension. The waiver program will run 10/1-10/31/17.

The courts guarantee that those who make payment in full will not be incarcerated. Additionally, the courts will waive all court-imposed late fees and/or warrant fees except for the \$45 License Suspension Reinstatement fees. A payment plan is also possible. For complete information, please contact the relevant district court: www.accesskent.com/Courts/districtcourts.htm.

New Ride-to-Work Program

Hope Network offers a “Wheels to Work” program for those who have transportation barriers and people simply looking for a reliable and affordable transportation alternative. Users access neighborhood-based hubs that serve as a pick-up and drop-off point. Hope Network partners with a number of area employers that pick up part of the cost for their employees. For more information and to get on board: (616) 243-0876.

Health Care Resources

Arbor Circle offers outpatient counseling services that can help adults develop the skills they need to cope with life’s challenges. Services include individual therapy, group counseling, medication services, care coordination of mental health and physical health needs, and care coordination of mental health and transportation, housing and employment needs. For information: (616) 459-7215.

Cherry Health’s Durham Clinic offers a team-based approach to the management of chronic physical and/or behavioral health conditions. Patients with more than one chronic condition may be eligible to receive support through a specialized program called MI Care Team. For information: (616) 965-8283.

Free MSU Financial Classes

MSU Extension is offering three-part Money Management courses as well as a “Dollar Works 2” financial education program that helps participants manage financial resources for greater financial stability. Pre-registration is required. For details and to register, call 616/632-7874; email ortquisj@anr.msu.edu.

Additional online financial programs: www.mimoneyhealth.org.