

ABLE Responds

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President, Operation ABLE

The news headlines of layoffs and rising unemployment rates scattered throughout this report sum up the difficult economic times facing our community. Over the past year, Operation ABLE has seen the real life impact of unemployment on mid-career and older workers and has been responding to this challenge.

Job seekers are turning to Operation ABLE in record high numbers. Laid off workers aged 40 and over must find new jobs quickly so they can meet their basic needs for food, clothing, shelter and health care. Because of reduced family income, some have lost their homes, and many have faced drastic reductions in health care coverage.

ABLE's Response

To meet the challenge of helping the growing ranks of mid-career and older job seekers, ABLE is constantly developing new programs and securing additional funding.

We are proud of several new initiatives that were launched this past year to help job seekers not only find jobs but also keep them.

- With the support of the Hudson-Webber Foundation and in partnership with Kelly Services, ABLE began a 3-year pilot project targeting chronically unemployed Detroiters.
- The Thompson-McCully Foundation provided ABLE with a multi-year grant to assist job seekers facing multiple barriers to successful employment.
- Funding from the Partnership for Adult Learning allowed us to help job seekers improve their reading and math skills.

Our strength lies in the core services we offer. These include the City of Detroit-funded programs for dislocated and older workers, Empowerment Zone assistance for unemployed Detroit residents, and help provided by SBC Ameritech and Bank One for those who do not fit public guidelines for assistance. Once again the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging provided major financial support for ABLE's annual "Ability is Ageless" award luncheon and our annual job fair.

This report provides further information about ABLE's programs, services and events as well as examples of the people we help.

Your Response

We are deeply grateful for the support received this past year from the public agencies, foundations, companies and individuals that allowed ABLE to respond to the needs of mature workers and the business community. ABLE is equipped to serve but relies on public and private funding to help the hundreds of jobless who come to us for assistance. Please join us in responding to this challenge.

Sincerely,

Shirley R. Stancato
Karen Kosniewski



Shirley Stancato
Chair
Board of Directors



Karen Kosniewski
President