

Jobless ranks grow



“I am a living testimonial of what you can get done when someone believes in you.”

After working 12 years as a machine operator and quality assistant supervisor for automotive parts suppliers, Narcissus lost her job. She came to Operation ABLE with the hope of gaining the skills that would get her out of the factory and into an office position.

“Operation ABLE is very patient with the all the adults in the class. The teachers stick with you until you can learn what you need to know. Most importantly, they showed faith in me when I needed it most,” said Narcissus.

Since coming to ABLE, Narcissus has turned her life in a new direction. She has found a job, bought a car and moved to a new apartment. Employed at an ad agency, she is managing a dealership marketing program.

“I am a living testimonial of what you can get done when someone believes in you. I thank Operation ABLE for their support. Now that I’ve found a job, I plan to go back to get a college degree.”

Classroom

At both its Southfield and Detroit locations, Operation ABLE’s classrooms are equipped with state of the art computers and the latest business software. Class sizes are small to allow for significant one-on-one instruction by the teachers. Classes are held in a learning environment geared toward the mature learner. Best of all, there is a computer for each student for hands-on learning.

Operation ABLE offers three certificate programs – Office Professional I, Office Professional II and Computer Savvy Manager/Professional. These combine computer basics and software instruction, basic skills enhancement, and a customer service and employability curriculum. At the end of the 8-week, 240-hour programs, the participants have a portfolio demonstrating their knowledge that can be presented at interviews.

Profile of ABLE’s Program Participants (July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2001)

Age: 41% are 40-49
43% are 50-59
16% are 60+

Gender: 79% are women.

Ethnicity: Approximately 84% are minorities (African Americans represent 81% of Operation ABLE’s program participants).

Skills: At the time of enrollment, 53% score at or below the 8th grade level in math.
44% score at or below the 8th grade level in reading.

Residency: 69% are residents of Detroit.