

Youth Discover Life Skills

By Austin Slone, Marketing Intern



Paid job training, decent hours, and strong support, these are just a few of the things that attract young men and women to the W.I.A. Youth Works Program. Youth Works is a 16 week long program specifically designed to help train youth between the ages of 16 and 21 in a career field of their choice. One of the most exciting parts of the Youth Works Program is attending Life Skills classes once a week.

Life skills, like the name says, teaches you about life. Everything from how to manage your money, to how to apply for a job. Lessons are done in a small group setting with two instructors and on special days, a guest instructor. At the conclusion of the class participants are sent home with a packet or a paper copy of the lesson so that the participant may repeat the exercise on their own. This program isn't like the typical classroom setting; it creates a fun and creative learning atmosphere for all who participate. Life Skills also includes a free meal prior to each lesson. The life skills classes are an hour and a half long and take place every Thursday afternoon at 12:00 pm in the Goodwill Vocational Rehabilitation building in downtown Newark, Ohio.

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The lesson for November 1, 2012 was respect. After we had eaten our food and settled down we began our discussion. The class discussed what respect was and what it meant to each of the participants. The lesson also included a picture portion where the participant was to draw what they felt showed respect. The participants presented their drawings then briefly summarized what it was showing and allowed the others to ask questions about it. After the presentations were done the class cleaned up the room and went back to their worksites.

One of the key elements to life skills is the ability to talk to the coordinators about the progress of your job, how you feel, and just generally socialize in a good environment. This program has helped countless people gain valuable experience and even in

some cases, full-time employment. The Youth Works Program is a great first-time employment opportunity and a fantastic way to get involved with the local community. In most workplaces you'll be required to have prior knowledge in that career field but, in this program it's all about what you want to learn. The Youth Works Program and Life Skills classes are powerful tools to being successful.

