

*****PRESS RELEASE*****



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Job Fair Focuses on Former Prisoners, Employers

BRIDGEPORT – People who have been incarcerated and are now seeking work will be the focus of a job and resource fair next week.

The Second Chance Resources and Jobs Expo will take place Thursday, November 13, from 10 am to 2 pm at the United Congregational Church in Bridgeport. Nine employers will be attending, and jobseekers are advised to dress for an interview and bring their resume. People who have been incarcerated can also find connections to employment, education, health and training programs, mentoring, and many other community resources.

Employers will get information about tax credits for hiring former offenders and the federal bonding program, which offers employers added protection when they hire former offenders. Employers who want to participate can contact Dan Braccio at 367-8441.

“Many employers just don’t want to hire anyone who has been in prison,” said Scott K. Wilderman, President/CEO of Career Resources. “But the reality is that many people have made mistakes, paid for them, and want to be able to work for a new life. They are very motivated and reliable – and, there are many resources to support them.”

“As we assist people coming out of prison,” added Dan Braccio, Program Director of the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport’s CO-OP Center, “we see again and again that a job is the single most important factor in whether they succeed or go back to jail. We need to remember that 95% of people in our prisons do get out – and they need to be able to make a living.”

The United Congregational Church is on the corner of Park Avenue and State Street in Bridgeport. Jobseekers do not have to register in advance.

The event is sponsored by The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, Career Resources Inc., and the Bridgeport Reentry Collaborative.

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport is a 63 year old ecumenical and social service agency. Originally founded just after World War II as The Council for Interchurch Cooperation, it responds to human need and develops cooperative action to leverage hope and change lives. The Council’s mission is to “to turn faith into action by enabling congregations and community partners to combine resources and expertise to provide programs that help people at risk meet their urgent needs.”

As the operator of the One Stop Center in Bridgeport, Career Resources serves 15,000 job seekers annually with job search assistance, computer labs and internet access, job posting, career coaching, training, and other services. Other Career Resources programs include STRIVE attitudinal job readiness training, Adult Basic Education and GED Preparation, Fathers for Life, and specialized job placement for older workers and those with disabilities. For more information, call 203 634 6601 or visit us at 350 Fairfield Ave. in Bridgeport or at www.careerresources.org.

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