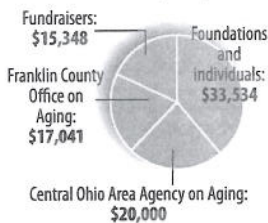


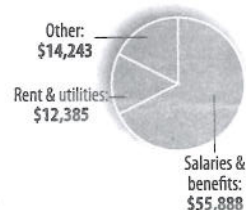
## EMPLOYMENT FOR SENIORS INC.

4500 E. Broad St.  
Columbus 43213  
Phone: 614-863-1219  
Fax: 614-863-1358  
Website: employseiors.org

Revenue FY2011: **\$85,923**



Expenses FY2011: **\$82,516**



**Mission:** To link mature adults with employment opportunities.

**Executive staff:** Carol Ventresca, executive director; Vanessa Sprungl, client and volunteer outreach associate; and Carolyn Bowman, employer outreach associate.

**Board members:** Brett Johnson, president; Laura O'Toole, vice president; Lori Thomas, secretary; Jeffrey Brenner, treasurer; Joshua Kinzel, member-at-large; Mitchell Alvarado; Steve Baldzicki; Muriel Ballou; Alan Berliner; Patrick Berry; Eugene Gabalski; Brenda Hammond; Jerri Harris; Charles Jenkins; Tina Vogel Kuba; Clifford March; Julie Maurer; John Reisman; Dave Rodabaugh; and Gary Sams.

**Paid staff:** Three part-time.

**Volunteers:** 50

**Annual fundraisers:** Legacy Awards Program, May; Senior Career Expo, October.

### Quick facts:

- Agency began 40 years ago as a grassroots effort to increase resources for older citizens seeking employment.
- Since 1972 it has registered more than 27,000 individuals.
- Target population includes all job seekers in the Central Ohio area age 50 and older.

# Promoting the value of older people in the work force

EMPLOYMENT FOR SENIORS started 40 years ago in Columbus.

BY MELISSA KOSSLER DUTTON  
| FOR BUSINESS FIRST

When Carol Saylor had a job to fill at Columbus Sign Co., she made one phone call.

The administrative assistant called Employment for Seniors, a nonprofit organization that helps match companies with job seekers who are age 50 or older.

"It's just wonderful," said Saylor. "There's no charge for their services."

Saylor felt confident using the agency because Columbus Sign has used Employment for Seniors successfully in the past. The company currently has two employees who were referrals from the organization. Both employees are great assets to the company, Saylor said.

"We have found that seniors have a different work ethic," she said. "They're dependable. It's been a positive thing for us."

Older workers contribute numerous skills to the work force, said Carol Ventresca, executive director of the agency. They bring maturity, experience and good customer service skills to the workplace, she said.

Seniors with a wide variety of job experience use the organization, which began 40 years ago. Employment for Seniors has helped accountants, lawyers, janitors and part-time receptionists find work.

"It runs the gamut," Ventresca said.

The organization strives to show companies the value of hiring older workers and helps job seekers become the best job candidates they can be, she said.

"We're the advocates. We go out to the employers (and tell them) the value of having mature workers in their workplace," she said. "We're just trying to match a good client with a good employer in an appropriate position. We simplify the system."

Often the organization has to dispel myths about senior workers, she said. Hiring managers sometimes assume they



JANET ADAMS | BUSINESS FIRST  
Carol Ventresca, executive director of Employment for Seniors, says she works against hiring managers' misconceptions that all older people are overqualified, unwilling to learn new skills and expecting high wages.

will be overqualified, unwilling to learn new skills or expecting high wages, she said.

Once hired, older employees often become mentors to younger employees, which has a positive impact on the entire workplace, Ventresca said.

The organization also works with job seekers. Employment for Seniors uses volunteers to provide career counseling to its clients. The career counselors help candidates write resumes and cover letters and hone their

interview skills.

The service is free to seniors. Once clients have met with a counselor, they can apply for jobs posted on the organization's website. The company typically has 50 to 80 available jobs.

The organization has about 2,500 active job candidates.

The recession has created a larger and more varied pool of people looking for work, Ventresca said. The organization has seen an increase in people

between the ages of 50 and 60 looking for jobs.

"Younger mature job seekers have been more affected because of the positions that were eliminated in this recession," she said.

As the economy shows signs of improving, the organization is working hard to make connections with as many local companies as possible, Ventresca said. She wants human resources professionals to know about the qualified candidates the organization represents.

Saylor, who recently filled the open receptionist position at Columbus Sign Co., has high praise for the service. Employment for Seniors presented her with several qualified candidates from which to choose.

The organization strives to provide companies only with candidates who meet the job requirements they have set forth.

"That was a real time saver," Saylor said. "It was a very easy process."

*'We're the advocates. We go out to the employers (and tell them) the value of having mature workers in their workplace. We're just trying to match a good client with a good employer in an appropriate position. We simplify the system.'*

Carol Ventresca | Employment for Seniors

MELISSA KOSSLER DUTTON  
is a freelance writer.



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