

Free forklift, construction training to be offered through La Casa

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WAUKESHA — La Casa de Esperanza’s Center for Financial Stability is partnering with the Milwaukee Community Service Corps and ResCare to offer free forklift and OSHA10 certification, for those interested in the construction industry.

The eight-day course, aimed at those who use FoodShare benefits, will give learners hands-on experience in carpentry, plumbing, electrical and HVAC/refrigeration. The training aims to help those who may not have a high school diploma or GED gain quick training that can then be immediately turned into an employment opportunity.

With many companies needing trade workers, the construction industry seemed like a good fit for training new employees, explained Karen Oates, director of workforce development and financial stability.

“We’ve been working with this kind of (construction) programming since 2010, when we did a youth build here,” said Oates. “We did a lot of research then and over the last 10 years to see what the trends are. The OSHA10 (certification) is something that almost every employer wants employees to have, so that just made sense.”

The first group of trainees actually went through a pilot program last August. Of the 12 participants, eight found

employment and the other four decided to keep on learning and return to school.

Oates says the program has benefits beyond just learning a skill.

“Besides improving their resumes and helping them get employed, it’s a real confidence builder,” said Oates.

Both the forklift training and OSHA10 certifications are normally valued at \$250 apiece, but are free to those enrolled in La Casa’s class.

The next session is scheduled for Aug. 6 through Aug. 15, with a maximum class size of 20 students. The deadline to enroll, for those using FoodShare benefits, is Wednesday.

For more information and to sign up for the next session, email Oates at koates@lacasadeesperanza.org.



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