

UCHRA and Pickett County Library Offer Generations on Line Program

By

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Years ago, when one entered a public library, all they expected to hear was the occasional rustle of a turning page. If the noise level got too high, they might get to hear the commanding ‘shush’ from an often misconceived, stern librarian. Today the sounds of a clicking mouse or taps on the keys of a computer keyboard are quite the norm. It is common for public libraries to have access to computers for public use and the Pickett County Public Library is no exception. Any day of the week, a person can find someone using these computers. Some days they may get to witness the merging of two generations.

Digital Inclusion, a free program offered through the Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency in conjunction with Senior Service America, Inc. uses computer software from Generations on Line to promote training for seniors in the use of basic computer skills.

“Our agency and Career Centers are always trying to find ways to help.” said Phyllis Bennett, Executive Director of the Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency, “We are happy to announce this program, which provides an opportunity for people to enter into the Information Age with more confidence, has been funded for an additional year.”

Charles West, UCHRA’S Older Worker Program Manager stated, “We appreciate our partnership with the Pickett County Public Library and I am particularly thankful for Library Director, Lori Winningham’s interest in assisting the seniors in Pickett County.”

Even though participation is targeted for senior citizens, there is no set age limit. The program designed to decrease the intimidation factor of using the internet, while teaching basic skills including web searches and email. It has no set course and instructions are given to students as they progress at their own pace. The use of games and searching for a student’s interest are primarily the first steps used. After that, it’s a whole new world.

Instructors, referred to as peer coaches, part of the Employment and Training’s Title V program at UCHRA, work with students in a one-on-one setting. Peer Coach, Susan Booher, will be conducted the classes in Pickett County starting in July.

For information on how to sign up for the classes, one may contact the Pickett County Library at 931-864-6281 or call the UCHRA Central office at 931-528-1127 ext. 252.

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Cutline: Peer Coach Susan Booher will be conducting classes at the Pickett County Library for UCHRA's Generation on Line, a program targeting seniors in computer instructions. This is a free program. Contact the UCHRA office at 931-528-1127 or the Pickett County Library at 931-864-6281 for more information.