

Monterey Branch Library Offering Computer Classes

By: Randy Wilder, Community Outreach and Resource Development Manager

Monterey- When it comes to electronics, the generation gap spreads even wider than it has in the past. Computers, cellular phones, DVD recording equipment and mp3 players make even the video cassette recorders look simple to operate. Remember how hard it was to set the clock on a VCR? One area where assistance can be found in learning how to operate modern electronics is with the computer. As part of the Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency's (UCHRA) Digital Inclusion program, Generations on Line can help older adults in the use of basic computer skills. With the help of the Monterey Branch Library, and Peer Coach Vicki Camp, older adults can take the course in Monterey if they choose.

Digital Inclusion, a free program offered through the UCHRA in conjunction with Senior Service America, Inc. uses computer software from Generations on Line to promote training for seniors. Although the focus is on older adults, there is no set age limit to enroll.

"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."

The program is 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.

If you or someone you know could benefit from taking this course, please call the UCHRA office at 931-528-1127, extension 623, and ask to be signed up. Instructions are given on a one-on-one basis with two or three students at a time and is also available in Cookeville.



Helping with UCHRA's Generation on Line program are Cleeter Turner, Library Clerk who has take the program,(seated); Vicki Camp, Peer Coach for Generations on Line; and Doylene Farly, Monterey Branch Librarian.