



Turning 65 Not Retiring

Dear Friend of 40Plus,

One day in late June, several of us were thrilled to get the following message from a recent graduate of our Career Transition Skills Training Course:

Dear 40Plus Family,

After nine months, 65 job applications, and 22 interviews, I've accepted a position at a software company in Tysons Corner. My start date is in August.

*I owe a lot to all of you. I joined 40Plus **dispirited, anxious, and confused** on how to land on my feet. All of you have been generous with encouragement.*

You've been my support system and I'm ever so grateful. Please let me know if I can do anything to help you out.

Hugs, Shel

Many of you have been in that same anxious, dispirited and confused place yourselves, and know how much difference our **training, a fresh perspective, and a support and accountability system** can make. We want to share some more of Shel's story with you, in her words:

*I had been working in sales and business development for a small technology company for 12 years when I realized it was time to move on. **I wanted to expand my horizons and try something different, but the fear of the unknown kept me in place.** It wasn't until I'd hit the 16-year mark that I decided to leave and start looking for another job.*

***The landscape, however, had changed.** I quickly learned that my idea of how to find work was not going to work in today's job market.*

***What a relief it was to discover that I was not alone.** There were other people – like me – who didn't know how to navigate this job-hunting process, and all of them – like me – were eager to learn from each other as well as our 40Plus Facilitators. Through a combination of kindness, patience, understanding, and unrelenting encouragement, they helped all of us become more adept at presenting ourselves to prospective employers.*

***Three months after the course ended, I had a new job.** I now work for a much larger software company, and I love it. I respect my boss. My colleagues are terrific. I'm extraordinarily happy. This is where I want to be, and I couldn't have done it without 40Plus.*



An attentive Monday Morning Meeting crowd

Since completing the course, Shel has been a tremendous supporter of 40Plus: as a facilitator, an event volunteer, and even as a donor. Her persistence and generosity of spirit is an inspiration to all of us. Please help Shel and the rest of us continue our long tradition of training and service.

We are turning 65 in 2018 – and we have NO intention of retiring!

But, we can't do it without YOU!

People transition better with the training, support, and encouragement that they can get at 40Plus of Greater Washington.

Please Donate Today

- I want to give \$250.00
- I want to give \$100.00
- I want to give \$65.00 – to celebrate each year that 40Plus has helped members of the community
- I want to give \$ _____

Select Payment Method:

_____ A check for my contribution is enclosed

_____ Please charge my credit card _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____ American Express

Account Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CCID: _____

Name on Card: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Look at the accomplishments of our all-volunteer workforce!

- In the past year, 32 **volunteer facilitators** donated over 500 hours of time taken from their busy lives to make our classes happen on 78 weekday evenings and Saturdays. Our sincerest thanks to **Rhonda Kranz** for organizing all of this activity and to all the volunteer facilitators who make the classes such a rewarding experience for participants.
- In 2017, we held **48 Monday Morning Meetings** featuring 44 unique speakers and attended by over 1,000 people. All are **free and open to the public**. Our most heartfelt thanks to **Ken Schoppmann** for finding so many interesting speakers, organizing the meetings, and for his tireless efforts on so many other fronts for 40Plus. We also want to extend our deepest gratitude to **Tom Goodwin**, our #1 Goodwill Ambassador, who always extends a warm welcome to newcomers and gives them the best possible overview of our programs.
- In the past year we hosted **10 Evening Networking Sessions** with speakers and light refreshments. These were attended by more than 250 incoming and outgoing class members and other guests. Our warmest thanks to **Gina Manley** and **Joy Rodman** for their unfailing good humor and making these events run so smoothly.



A newly employed graduate rings the bell – a 40Plus tradition.



Guest speaker Michele Proctor
- with a small token of our appreciation

- In 2017, we conducted **56 Pre- and Post-class Assessments** for incoming and outgoing course participants. These mock-interview and networking sessions involved the efforts of 19 volunteers providing over 100 hours of service for which we are extremely grateful. Results indicate that, on average, our participants' skills improve by 32% and their self-perception of their skill level also improves by 35% after taking course.
- With the purchase of a little equipment and the exceptional generosity and talents of **Ron Hebensperger** and **Rand Cheadle**, we developed the capability to take **professional-quality photographs of our members**. We want all of our class participants to have a great head shot for LinkedIn and other purposes. So far we have photographed 16 class members. Thank you Ron and Rand.

- We have started to make a variety of **enhancements to our website**. You will notice that the banner graphics are greatly improved, among other things. Our great thanks to **Jim Kast** and **Dianne Williams** for helping us with this important task, and keeping us technologically operational. We have many more improvements planned.

Sincerely, and with best wishes for the season,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric H. Hertting".

Eric H. Hertting
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeryl Skinner".

Jeryl Skinner
Board Chair

P.S. We are turning 65 and very proud of it! Stay tuned for our anniversary party next year! But, we need your help to make it another 65 years serving people like Shel (and possibly you at one time or in the future).

THANK YOU!