

My name is Barbara Freeman

Just a little about me, I moved here from Chicago, ILL in 1986.

I'm the oldest of 17 sisters and brothers.

I'm the mother of 7 children, 3 deceased.

I've always worked from the age of 16 in many different fields.

I worked a couple of jobs until I started at the DAP program, I as a legal advocate, I worked there for 16 years. This was my dream job because of the experience of marrying at the age of 16 years old, I learned what abuse is from a child. I was very satisfied with my job, until a new director came on, and got rid of everyone from the (3) offices, I tried and tried to find a job even in the fields I knew that I was qualified for but got a lot of no's. I knew that I couldn't sit at home waiting on death, my daughter told me about Eastside neighborhood service center. I came and filled out the papers in 2018 and they called me 2 weeks later, I was so excited because I was 69 at the time and no one wanted to hire me, but SCSEP gave me a chance, they didn't care about me being old, SCSEP built my skills, the trainings I've learned is something I wouldn't have if it wasn't from SCSEP, my first training was a front desk receptionists, then a program assistance, then to Vital living helping the elderly with in many different ways how to live on there on, I was given a program in which I named it Treasuring Memories. I also learned through SCSEP how to use zoom, a spreadsheet, and many more things that time won't let me mention.

It gave me a purpose in life again, some people feel that we are too old to work, but SCSEP showed me that I didn't just have to sit around as an old person waiting to die. I am very grateful for the SCSEP program. We may need training for the way things are done today and we can still learn. This is my last year with the program, but I know when we

get these funds Eastside can hire me and some of the SCSEP participants. I'm asking you all to please fund this program.

Thanks in advance!