

# THE GUIDE

Stepping Stones to a Brighter Future

Summer 2007

## SURVIVAL SKILLS EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

### SSED builds organization with new look and new staff

The success of the Survival Skills model is continuing and expanding under new leadership.

In the fall of 2005, Debbie Mitchell became the new owner and CEO of SSED. Having been one of founder Dr. Linda Thurston's core national trainers for 15 years, Debbie Mitchell is committed to maintaining the integrity and incredible quality of the Survival Skills model.

In addition, Debbie Mitchell is dedicated to expanding the array of programs in response to identified needs of disenfranchised individuals; and improving technology, communications and service delivery to customers.

Two years have allowed for re-

flection, improvement and growth. SSED added a full-time position in the spring of 2007. Melissa Guthrie-Johnson is serving as the Managing Director of Programs.

Melissa Guthrie-Johnson brings a diverse range of experiences to SSED. Her experiences include teaching and curriculum development in public education, youth ministry, program development and communications leadership.

Overall, SSED is excited to move forward with its focus on "stepping stones to a brighter future". Staff are committed to guiding and building that great future, for participants, facilitators, trainers and the organization.

### Newest program, Workplace Survival Skills, meets overwhelming demand

SSED announces its newest program: Workplace Survival Skills. WSS was developed in response to an overwhelming demand for a curriculum that addressed employer expectations and employee behaviors with an experiential approach.

WSS took three years in development and field-testing. Consultation included work with the Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS), Work Keys and Workplace Essential Skills.

Men and women—and their employers—are already reaping the benefits of WSS. WSS fosters

**WSS meets all federal funding guidelines for WIA and welfare reform, and it is a huge cost-savings for industries using Work Keys since it parallels training in the same competencies for a fraction of the cost.**

confidence and personal power, interpersonal and communication skills, life management, teamwork and leadership, and job success and advancement.

Participants and facilitators appreciate that WSS is similar in design and methodology to core programs, but offers more flexibility. Call SSED or visit the website for more info!

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## **Changes in certification process ensure ease and accuracy**

Effective October 2006 anyone completing and passing the facilitator training will be certified on the spot and certification will be good for one year.

This process differs from previous certification which required each trained facilitator to complete and submit at least three workshop series and meet SSED's established certification criteria (criteria in manual).

Now facilitators will be required to submit the data from one completed workshop series as well as a nominal annual fee for continued certification.

This process will ensure that all facilitators are delivering the program as designed as well as staying updated on any changes, additions and new data as it pertains to program outcomes.

## **Data needs to be collected and submitted to SSED**

Trainers, facilitators and program participants can benefit from data because it allows for accuracy, evaluation and improvement.

SSED wants to receive as much data and feedback as possible. Please complete and send your series data to the SSED office.

## **Train-the-Trainer offers personal and professional opportunity**

An exciting opportunity began this year for veteran facilitators who are ready to utilize their expertise as a trainer. Train-the-Trainer is an intensive four-day training which enables you to join the SSED family. SSED plans to have a trainer in each state so program training

is more readily available and cost-effective for community-based providers. If you have been delivering one or more of our programs, or you know of a facilitator that would be an outstanding trainer, we want to hear from you! There are rewards waiting for you!



**SURVIVAL SKILLS EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**

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and Fall savings  
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**Tote Bags \$15...  
NOW ONLY \$10**

**Survival Skills Pens  
\$1 each**

**Survival Skills Pencils  
\$3 per dozen**

**Upcoming Events\***

Trainings for SSW:  
September 5-7, Nashville, TN  
November 13-15, Greensboro, NC  
December 5-7, Indianapolis, IN

Trainings for SSM:  
October 23-25, Denver, CO

Trainings for SSY:  
October 23-25, Denver, CO

Trainings for WSS:  
August 28-29, Greensboro, NC  
November 7-8, Raleigh, NC

Train-the-Trainer:  
September 25-28, Greensboro, NC

Conferences to catch us at:  
ACA Conference, Kansas City, MO, August 12-15

Tennessee Corrections State Conference,  
Nashville, TN, September 10-12

NC Workforce Development Partnership  
Conference, Greensboro, NC, October 17-19

\*If you don't see a training near you, or if there is additional interest, SSED will always add trainings based on need.

