

United Way Job Fair attracts people of all ages

BY LAURIE HUMPHREY

STAFF WRITER

The hall was lined with faces, some belonged to eager college graduates with dreams of making the big bucks while others were etched with experience. They were looking for another direction. Despite the age differences, they all had at least one thing in common — a resume ready to turn over for inspection to employers involved with the 1995 United Way Job Fair last Tuesday.

Seventy-five employers offering 2,500 jobs in the tri-county area drew almost 600 people in the first two hours of the all-day fair. One hundred eight of those people came from Oakland County.

Brian Colding of Southfield was one job seeker.

"I came here because I'm fresh out of college," said the University of Michigan graduate. "I came here looking for a job as an artist."

"I'm working part-time for my mom right now and I figured why not."

Bob Fitzpatrick of Farmington was also attracted to Southfield's Plaza Hotel, near Northland Mall, in search of something.

"I'm just looking for the opportunity to get to meet a lot of new people and see if I can offer my (marketing) skills to someone," said the veteran marketing agent.

The attending employers were

as diverse as the job candidates, ranging from retail to hotel to insurance to computer to recreational. Equally notable was the diversity in home towns.

Comerica Incorporated, based in Detroit with banking institutions throughout Oakland County including Troy and West Bloomfield, sent two representatives to the job fair: Shelly S. Staniel and Stacey Hilden, both from the human resources department.

"We take turns coming out (on job fairs) because it's a good cause," said Hilden.

"Basically we have a wide area and our headquarters are in Detroit, we have to go out for recruiting purposes," added Staniel, who said it was her first job fair through the United Way.

Comerica Incorporated is looking to fill both part-time and full-time positions ranging from clerical to customer service, to check processors, to data entry.

All resumes are submitted to the human resources department, there were no preliminary interviews. Openings are immediate.

Also looking for potential employees were representatives from Meijer stores, who have locations in Waterford, Troy, Rochester Hills, Commerce Township and Royal Oak.

"We are a company with a steady growth rate and advancement is always prevalent," said Charles Hall, Royal Oak store

manager.

Commerce Township store manager Sharon Volmont said: "Meijer does like to attend job fairs, not only to fill entry-level jobs, but management training, too."

She is looking to hire 150 store associates for the Commerce Township location alone. "Our need is immediate," she said.

Although Volmont has never attended a job fair before, she was told by co-workers who had manned the Meijer booth in past job fairs how many people were likely to attend. She was not disappointed.

"I have dealt with people seeking entry-level positions as well as people who have inquired about running a store," she said. "With 90 stores in four states, and the planning of a Wixom store in 1996, Meijer offers a lot of opportunity said the store representatives."

"Meijer offers career opportunities that don't necessarily need a degree," Volmont added. "We offer training and promote from within."

Offering job opportunities in Troy was CDI Computer Services, Inc. Recruiters Brenda McHugh and Paul N. Hitch came to the job fair in search of skilled candidates and hoping to promote their company.

"We're always looking for tech-

nical people and to tell more people what we're about," Hitch offered as a reason to attend the job fair.

"We talk to people about the opportunities and see if they have the background," said McHugh. "If we see people we like, we do a preliminary interview here and set something up for them to come in and interview."

Despite the high number of people attracted to the job fair, not everyone has the qualifications to be employed at CDI Computer Services, Inc., said Hitch. "But if we can hire one or two people, it's worth it."

A subsidiary of the 43-year-old CDI Corporation, CDI Computer Services, Inc. employs 600 at their Troy and satellite offices. They have been located in Troy for one year.

About the fair, McHugh said she was very impressed with the way it was run and the number of employers who turned out. CDI Computer Services, Inc. has immediate openings for programmers, network administrators, system analysts and software engineers, to name a few.

Recruiters seek candidates with degrees or practical experience.

The Millennium Theatre in Southfield also hoped to find new employees at the job fair. In search of house staff, bartenders, support staff and box office staff, Frank DePetris was accepting applications and writing down telephone numbers.

"This is the first time I've done this job fair on this side of the table," he said, pointing to where employers stand.

DePetris, operations manager of the theater, said he and Jeffrey Nahan, producing director, are looking to hire part-time employees on a temporary and permanent basis. They expected housewives, but are finding a much larger market.

"We're intrigued with the number of people who want a part-time job," said DePetris. "We expected housewives who wanted to earn a little extra money, but we're getting people with other jobs (during the day) who want extra money (a night job can offer)."

He hopes to fill the positions by next week, when the former

Northland Theater will showcase a hit musical play.

"We're a professional stage theater, which has been open for three years," he said. "But we don't bring in out-of-state talent."

Between five and seven positions are available, with flexible scheduling including up to 10 hours weekly.

The purpose of the job fair according to United Way Community Services President Virgil H. Carr, "is improving the lives of people in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties."

"We are in the midst of our United Way Torch Drive. It is the success of that annual fund-raising campaign that enables us to offer special programs like this, as well as provide funding to other agencies," he added.

The seventh annual job fair, lasting from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., was free to all job seekers. It was sponsored by the United Way Community Services in partnership with the Mental Health Association in Michigan and Operation ADLE.

Farmington employee is in exhibit

Chrystina Nykorak, membership director at the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, has two works in the exhibit, "Mythology, Legends and Folklore of the Ukraine" at the Scarab Club, 217 Farmworth at John R.


The exhibit, continuing through Oct. 26, includes Nykorak's work, "Trypillia" and "Ancestral Spirits of Chernihiv."

"Mythology, Legends and Folklore of the Ukraine" is a timely exhibit with the collapse of the Soviet Union still on the minds of many people. Because of the political changes, many artists, who had been previously unknown to the western art world, now have a chance to exhibit worldwide.

Of the 33 artists featured, 14 are from the Ukraine.

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