

SCORE offers assistance to new businesses

Whether you are starting a business, reviewing your current business plan for your existing business, or thinking of tweaking an aspect of your current marketing or business finances, it always pays to get a second or third opinion.

SCORE Central Pennsylvania is a local chapter of the nationwide SCORE Association that has helped more than 8 million people get free and confidential individual or team counseling on business matters to improve and succeed in today's business world.

The local SCORE chapter is a volunteer organization that serves Centre, Clearfield, Huntingdon and Mifflin counties. Organized in 1991, SCORE Central Penn-



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Helping Hands

assistance.

The local chapter also provides programs and workshops that deal with special topics. The "Business Basics" workshops include programs on startup, business plan, marketing, financial matters and other

sylvania is a resource partner of the U.S. Small Business Administration. It offers a variety of counseling services, including person-to-person, online and telephone

special topics that are client driven. The chapter also has provided other programs, such as an economic symposium on current issues impacting regional, state and global business issues.

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, 30 percent of new businesses fail in the first year and 50 percent fail within five years. Statistics also have shown that business owners and organizers who have been counseled or advised prior to startup have reduced the fail figures significantly.

Why does SCORE have a role in America's future? Because almost 95 percent of all business firms in America are self-employed

or have between one and nine employees. Planning and organization are therefore important parts of being successful.

SCORE Central Pennsylvania's Web site, www.scorecpa.org, has resources and opportunities for new and existing businesses to get a variety of information to resolve many different types of business needs and situations. There also are links to local, state and national resources to help manage your need to know.

SCORE Central Pennsylvania also encourages people to consider being a volunteer and helping others succeed in business today. SCORE once stood for "The Service Corps of Retired Executives." Today SCORE

volunteers are not just retired people but people of all ages who are willing to be a counselor or resource provider to "America's Small Business." There are no age limits.

SCORE is looking for motivated and talented volunteers who are willing to help others be successful in their startup or existing small business. Consider joining today.

SCORE in Centre County is located in the Industry and Technology Center, 2820 E. College Ave., Suite E, State College, PA 16801. Staff can be reached by telephone and fax at 234-9415.

John R. Vincenti is vice chairman of SCORE Central Pennsylvania.