
MINNESOTA YOUTH SUCCESS STORY

WSA 3 – Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training

Christopher



Young people in Aitkin County are helping businesses and learning important employment skills through the NE MN Office of Job Training youth employment program. The youth program is designed to help young people, ages 14-21, develop productive work skills, contribute to the business community and earn a paycheck. Summer jobs provide entry-level training in a variety of occupations at non-profit, educational, and other community-oriented worksites. When you order from The Tuscan Room in Aitkin, more than likely your order will be

delivered by Christopher, a senior at Aitkin High School. Christopher assists with food preparation, dishwashing, and customer service. He worked at the Tuscan Room this winter during school. His supervisor, Cathy, enjoys having Chris work at her restaurant and notes, "He is always happy and so pleasant to work with; he does so well outside of school in this environment." Christopher is interested in mechanics and wants to pursue additional training in this field after he graduates.

The Tuscan Room has been active with the youth employment program since it opened. Cathy and Connie, the worksite supervisors, took the time to get to know the youth and teach them skills that lead to successful careers. Youth who they mentored are now successful adults contributing to the community.

The success of this program wouldn't be possible without the continued dedication and commitment of businesses in the community. Every year supervisors are willing to mentor youth and teach them job skills. The connections that are made and the relationships that are built last a lifetime