

July 6, 2009 Norwalk Reflector Forum
By Debra Presser, EHOVE Adult Career Center

Once upon a time there was a large ship that set sail from Europe to America. It was know as the Unsinkable Titanic. No one ever imagined that it would hit an iceberg and sink. The people on that ship reacted to the tragedy in a variety of ways. The Radioman sent out an SOS and help was dispatched. The crew distributed life jackets and the life boats were filled and lowered. The musician entertained. Families bonded together to console each other.

To those of you who have lost your job, this story may feel all too real. You may ask, "Has Norwalk hit an iceberg? Are there any life jackets? Where are the lifeboats?" It is the hope of your Mayor, city and county officials, and many local agencies that there will be clear sailing ahead.

As a counselor but also someone who has survived a layoff, I know that the seas of unemployment are rough. Anger, depression, disappointment, fear, shock; the full range of emotions can make moving forward difficult. For some of you, getting on the lifeboat of TRAINING and EDUCATION is the next logical step. If you don't have your high school diploma, now is the time to get your GED. You can enroll in FREE ABLE classes (419-668-2779) and, after a period of instruction, you can get a fee waiver to take the GED test.

Once you have a GED or with your High School diploma, the door to higher education is open. This area offers a variety of adult education opportunities. EHOVE Adult Career Center in Milan 419-499-4663, Firelands College of BGSU in Huron 419-433-5560, Madison Adult Career Center in Mansfield 419-589-6363, North Central State College in Mansfield 419-755-4800, Ohio Business College in Sandusky 419-627-8345, Pioneer Adult Career & Technology Center in Shelby, 419-347-7744, Sandusky Career Center in Sandusky 419-625-9294 and Terra Community College in Fremont 419-334-8400. Your Job Store has more information on each of the schools and they can explore the options for helping pay tuition. Each school has staff to help you explore career options and apply for federal financial aid.

So put on your life jacket by contacting one of the schools. Sail into your future by taking a life boat into a new career.