

Every Resource Counts - Get the Basics, Get Ahead!

Along with offering a Success Coach at the workplace for assistance with any home or work challenge, several ERN® member companies of the Lakeshore ERN including Petersen Farms, Michigan Freeze Pack, Country Dairy, Arbre Farms, and Shelby State Bank are partnering to offer food assistance onsite through Feeding America food trucks.



Ask your Success Coach for community food assistance in your area! ERN® member company, Petersen Farms, partners with other ERN companies, the Oceana County Community Foundation, and the Oceana County, United Way of the Lakeshore to offer food assistance at the workplace during challenging times.

Onsite Resources

“At Peterson Farms we take our workforce’s needs seriously and spend time daily working to make our associates’ time at work meaningful, productive, and memorable,” said Bob Thompson, Director of Human Resources. “When approached by the Oceana County, United Way of the Lakeshore with the opportunity to marry the needs of our associates with the needs of our community on our own campus we were instantly vested.”

Are you ALICE?

Do you earn above the Federal Poverty Level, but don’t make enough to afford basic household necessities? Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed individuals can take a bite out of monthly spending through community resources. Barbara Saunders Sims, Director, Oceana County, United Way of the Lakeshore said, “It was a pleasure to see our community business and agency partners come together to impact the lives of Oceana families.”

Success Coach Help

“I enjoy connecting employees with resources like mobile food pantries,” said Eva Berumen-Reyna, Success Coach (Lakeshore ERN). “They have helped reduce grocery bills, allowing employees to pay bills or put money into savings.” Your Success Coach can go over your current spending and see areas where you may be able to save or access free resources. Create a new budget to guide spending. What are your short-and long-term goals?

Southwest Michigan Employer Resource Network

Our goal...

Creating access and resources for employee success at work and in life.

Member Companies

- ◆ CLO
- ◆ Edwards Garment
- ◆ Fibre Converters
- ◆ Outerwears
- ◆ ROI
- ◆ Summit Polymers - Sturgis
- ◆ Summit Polymers - Vicksburg

Strategic Partners

- ◆ ERN USA
- ◆ ISK
- ◆ Kalsee Credit Union
- ◆ Michigan Works! Southwest
- ◆ Sturgis Bank & Trust
- ◆ WE Upjohn Institute

Every resource you access adds up to savings toward your goals. Contact your Success Coach to find out what resources are available for you. Creating a plan and having support along the way will make all the difference! What are your dreams? *Source: LERN; ERN USA*

**Stephanie Bourne
Success Coach**

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269-330-0466 (cell)

Due to Covid-19, many ERN member companies have Success Coaches working remotely. We will resume workplace onsite success coaching when safe for each company.

Success Coach, Stephanie Bourne, is available exclusively (for now) by phone, text, email or online meeting for employees at the following companies:

- ◆ **CLO**
- ◆ **Edwards Garment**
- ◆ **Fibre Converters**
- ◆ **Outerwears**
- ◆ **ROI**
- ◆ **Summit Polymers - Sturgis**
- ◆ **Summit Polymers - Vicksburg**

ERN® Success Coaches are effectively assisting employees around the country with any challenge or need they have at work or home.

Seeing a Success Coach is free for you and confidential - a benefit from your employer. When employees succeed, the entire company succeeds!



Child Tax Credit Plan: Bills, Debt, Savings

The American Rescue Plan increases the Child Tax Credit CTC from \$2,000 to \$3,600 for children under the age of 6 and \$3,000 for children between the ages of 6 and 17. Before, the CTC was limited to kids 16 and under.

Who is eligible. Amounts taper off once income hits \$75,000 for individuals and \$150,000 for married couples. Those above the income threshold qualify for the \$2,000 CTC if their annual income is below \$200,000 for individuals and \$400,000 for married couples.

When payments go out. On July 15, your household could receive the first monthly installment of \$250 or \$300 for each dependent.

Setting payment preferences. Before July 1, the IRS will open two web portals, allowing you to choose if you want to defer receiving half the total through advance monthly checks, getting one payment in 2022 for the full amount instead. The portals will also allow you to update personal details if your income or dependents has changed.

Get assistance. "Meeting with your Success Coach enables you to create a budget and strategic plan that will work in your favor to decrease your bills," says Mika Hanson-Edwards, Success Coach (*Soaring to Success ERN*). "Make an appointment to get tips on how your extra dollars can work for you!"
Source: Soaring to Success ERN

Teen Mental Health: Signs & Seeking Help

Since the pandemic began, self-harm and overdose insurance claims among 13- to 18-year-olds is skyrocketing, shows a new study by FAIR Health.

Watch for signs. These signs may indicate a need for counseling:

- ◆ loss of self-esteem
- ◆ obsessive body-image concerns
- ◆ weight loss or gain
- ◆ isolation of friends and social groups
- ◆ loss of interest in favorite pastimes
- ◆ decline in academic performance
- ◆ behaviors such as cutting or mentioning harming himself or herself
- ◆ personality changes, such as excess anger, that is out of character
- ◆ sleep changes such as excessive sleeping, difficulty sleeping, insomnia
- ◆ weeping or excessive moodiness
- ◆ expressions of hopelessness or worthlessness
- ◆ paranoia and excessive secrecy

A success story. One *West Michigan ERN* employee sought advice when her daughter was showing signs of anxiety and depression. Christie Swick, Success Coach, suggested she call a mental health network for options. The network gave the employee a number to call for emergencies, put her daughter on a waiting list for individual counseling, and got her enrolled in a support group that takes her insurance. Her daughter said, "It helps a lot to have someone to talk to; it's already made a big difference in how I feel." Her grades dramatically improved and she has stopped self-harming behavior.

Sources: WMERN; healthychildren.org



ERN USA
Employer Resource Network®

