

O Arizona!

O Arizona, the night is free
 Found near every saguaro cactus
 where's the snow they talk about?
 ah, on the slopes of Snowbowl
 among Flagstaff's beauty, alas
 sensing nature's hidden secrets.
 Do you hear singing from a gifted
 youthful chorus? – bells ringing -
 sunset's picturesque scene
 what an enterprise for enthusiasm.
 Arizona it's amazing how you ended
 up so entertaining, so accommodating
 by memorable goodwill, integrity, surprise.

O Arizona! you'r colorful, a luxurious
 Landscape, a masterpiece of treasures,
 wonders - gracious living – a stunning
 scenic grandeur, everyday life finds your
 simply walking up and down your
 luscious green mountains, cliffs and red
 stones graced by nature, then a pause,
 for refreshing breezes . . .

O Arizona! we love living here!

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Encore Opportunity

CIVITAN FOUNDATION WINS ENCORE OPPORTUNITY AWARD FOR INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES TO EMPLOY WORKERS OVER 50

MetLife Foundation and Civic Ventures Honor Eight Non-profit and Public Sector for Creatively Helping People Over 50 Find, Thrive in Encore Careers. Civic Ventures and MetLife Foundation have awarded one of eight Encore Opportunity Awards to Civitan Foundation. The awards honor organizations that are making it easier for experienced workers to transition into encore careers – paid jobs that offer meaning and the chance to make a social impact.

Civitan Foundation was selected for its Caring Connections program which creates meaningful work opportunities for Baby Boomers. They have been recruiting people over 50 as caregivers for individuals with developmental disabilities. The program was launched in 2008 to meet the demands of a growing clientele.

“This year's Encore Opportunity Award winners are innovative, adaptable and smart – and clearly recognize the need to take advantage of the windfall of talented older Americans,” said Dennis White, CEO and president of MetLife Foundation. “These trailblazing employers can serve as a model for others to follow.”

While layoffs and hiring freezes remain the norm in most industries, experts still project talent shortages in some health care, education, nonprofit and government jobs. Meanwhile, surveys show that millions of boomers want to find encore careers where they can give back and have an impact. But it is not always easy.

“For those in midlife and beyond, looking for a job these days is often a do-it-yourself project made all the worse by exhaustion, isolation, and high unemployment,” said Phyllis N. Segal, vice president of Civic Ventures, a think tank on boomers, work and social purpose. “But some nonprofit and public sector organizations are hiring and retaining people over 50 to meet community needs – and doing so in an exemplary fashion.”

Carol Kratz, program director at the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust- which gave Civitan a grant to start the Caring Connections- can attest to the programs worth. “The project demonstrates the effectiveness of the combination of these caring older adults with the individual needing their attention.

For more information about services or employment visit www.campcivitan.org or 602-953-2944.

About Civic Ventures (www.encore.org) Civic Ventures is a national think tank on boomers, work, and social purpose.

About MetLife Foundation

MetLife Foundation was established in 1976 by MetLife to carry on its long-standing tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. The Foundation has been involved in a variety of aging-related initiatives addressing issues of caregiving, intergenerational activities, mental fitness, health and wellness programs and civic involvement. More information about the Foundation is available at www.metlife.org.



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