

Seminars to help teens on career track

G. Carl Ball and his wife, Vivian Elledge Ball, founded The Ball Foundation, established in 1975 with a mission to discover and develop human potential.

The Ball Foundation is part of the Ball legacy in Glen Ellyn, one which dates back to the turn of the century with George Jacob Ball, a horticultural expert and Glen Ellyn visionary. By the late 1920s, Ball had his own seed catalog and greenhouses. Today, Ball Horticultural is the parent company of a number of internationally known firms, including W. Atlee Burpee & Co. The Ball family has remained active in the horticultural aspects of the business, but branched into other areas of interest as well.

The Ball Foundation, located in Glen Ellyn, has two main programs: Career Vision and Education Initiatives. Many remember taking the Ball Aptitude Battery as local high school teens, a test geared to promote self knowledge and increase the chance of professional success and satisfaction in a future career. Now, with budgetary restrictions in many high schools, these assessments may not be offered by many of the schools. But testing will remain available, with an option for an even more comprehensive assessment, through Career Vision.

"With so many choices and so much change in the workplace, it has become critical to begin career preparation in high

school," said Paula Kosin, marketing manager for Career Vision. "If you start early, you start smart.

Glen
Ellyn
Grapevine

Kathy
Slovick



Students gain a competitive advantage when they know their strengths and can match them to college majors and careers that use their best abilities."

Kosin hopes that now that the assessments are an option for all students, they will take advantage of the opportunity to get to know their potential.

Finding the right fit in the workplace is not just for young people just starting out.

"Adults have been saying, 'Boy I wish I'd have had this when I was younger.' Many did not know that it was already available through the Ball Foundation's Career Vision program. Working with young adults has always been important for Career Vision," Kosin said.

The Ball Foundation has always offered these tests for adults and high school students, she said.

"Two-thirds of our practice is working with adults," said Kosin.

Adapting to the 21st century work envi-

ronment is challenging.

"The workplace keeps changing. When you like what you do, it doesn't really seem like work. If you're happy in your work, you're happy in overall life," adds Kosin.

Kosin, who is also a licensed clinical professional counselor, thinks adults can avoid job frustration, restlessness and expensive mistakes through education and self-knowledge.

"Most people are exposed to very little or no career guidance," Kosin said. "Today, there is science and research to guide those decisions."

Kosin estimates that more than 40,000 individuals have benefited from taking the Ball Aptitude Battery, and more than 100,000 parents have read their award-winning publication, "Getting Started: Talking with Your Child About Career Choices."

"How to Help Your Teen Find a Part Time/Summer Job" seminar will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 25, in Glen Ellyn. Another seminar, "How to Help Your Teen Plan for a Career That Will Make Them Happy," will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 28. Both events will take place at Career Vision headquarters at 800 Roosevelt Road, E-200, in Glen Ellyn.

For more information about the seminars, testing, or obtaining the parent booklet, contact Career Vision at (630) 469-6270, or visit the Web site at www.careervision.org.