

VIRTUAL

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“We had a lot of people who had not been able to attend a real job fair,” Mushill said.

Mushill said she worked with both Illinois workNet and Madison County Employment and Training to put together bigger employers needed for the virtual fair. Illinois workNet is an online source for local and statewide resources and tools to help individuals, employers, and workforce/education partners achieve their training and employment goals.

“More importantly, we took a long video of all the employers. Then we posted that information on our jobs page. People could watch the video, see what a company had open and what they are looking for. Then, we had the link on there how they could apply.”

The materials and key links are on the chamber website, [troymaryvillecoc.com](http://troymaryvillecoc.com).

The employer needs were a revelation for Mushill, who has been at her post for more than 20 years.

“I think what surprised me was the variety of jobs. We might have

an administrative assistant or an executive director, or an RN. I didn’t realize that every single area was suffering, looking for employees.”

Mushill said she has heard from a couple of applicants who are now in the hiring process.

She may seek out testimonials if the hirings take place.

“The employers have been very happy,” she said.

The longer the chamber’s fairs continue, the more organized the program will become and the more the word will spread, she said. Advertising and fliers are part of the plans.

While Mushill knows of no other chambers that have created their own virtual job fair, individual employers, in general, have been using virtual hiring techniques many years.

The chamber implemented the idea after discussions among board members.

“We’ve met some wonderful people. It also is a great benefit for our members. That’s our goal is to

exceed their expectations,” Mushill said. “Anything new that we think will help them, we’ll give it a try.”

The chamber, at last count, had 478 members. Membership comes 48 percent from businesses within the four communities contained in the chamber name, and the remainder from outside communities.

Chamber Holds Healthcare Kindness Day

The Troy/Maryville/St. Jacob/Marine Chamber of Commerce this year created a Healthcare Kindness Day as a means of renewing thanks to health professionals.

“Our health-care workers were working hard every single day but in March of 2020, they were asked to not only work harder but put themselves at risk of COVID,” said Dawn Mushill, executive director. “Every one of them has had a very trying (year), and they are still dealing with so much – so we created a holiday for them.”

Healthcare Kindness Day came about after a chamber board discussion. The idea led to the delivery in late February of bags containing gift certificates, treats, a kindness jar (with more than a dozen kindness sayings that workers can take “as needed”); a handwritten thank-you note; a scratch-off ticket (that will get them a free item at a local restaurant), a flier telling the story of Healthcare Kindness Day and more.

The event could not have been possible without many companies and individuals, she said.

“We hope the health-care workers know how much we appreciate every single thing they do every single day,” Mushill said.

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