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## October 2022 Newsletter

Hello Gene,

The name Gateway Community Action Partnership reflects our expanded coverage area, but more importantly, it signifies what we are all about. We are a gateway to success for individuals and families in our community and we achieve those results through actions done in partnership within that very community we serve. So please take a minute to read our newsletter and learn more about Gateway Community Action Partnership and our impact in our communities.

### Agency Mission And CAP Promise

The agency's mission is to provide services that improve the quality of life and promote self-sufficiency.

**CAP Promise:** Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

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**Gateway Awarded Outstanding Municipal Partner  
By Housing And Community Development Network Of NJ**

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**From left: Albert B. Kelly, Gateway President and CEO; Tracey Harris, Gateway Housing & Community Development Manager; Staci Berger, HCDNNJ President and CEO; and Edward Bethea, Gateway Executive Vice President and COO.**

Gateway was honored with two awards at the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey's (HCDNNJ) Under One Roof Conference on October 21. The agency received an award for Outstanding Municipal Partner - New Development, as well as a Lasting Achievement Award to celebrate 35 years of service.

The Outstanding Municipal Partner – New Development Award highlights the agency's RiverGrove apartments in Bridgeton. The following was written by the HCDNNJ along with the award:

"The City of Bridgeton is home to the RiverGrove Apartments, a 100 percent affordable rental community featuring 68 affordable homes. The project is the result of the joint efforts between Gateway Community Action Partnership, the Cumberland Empowerment Zone Corporation, and Eastern Pacific Development. The City of Bridgeton provided a PILOT of 5 percent per annum for the project which is supplemented by other financing partners including the NJ Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, Enterprise Community Investments, the USDA, and TD Bank. RiverGrove includes 34, three-bedroom duplexes, totaling approximately 1,300 square feet each. 52 of the apartments also have an attached garage. The project includes 40 USDA subsidized rental units for full-time farm workers, and 28 units which will be rented at market rates. Amenities include a range, refrigerator, dishwasher, garbage disposal, gas heat, electric central air, on-site property management, and planned social activities."

Thank you to the Housing & Community Development Network of NJ for its continued support.

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## **Edward Bethea, Gateway Executive VP/COO, Elected as Vice Chair Of HCDNNJ Board Of Directors**

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Edward Bethea, Gateway Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, was elected to serve as Vice Chair of the Housing and Community Development Network of NJ Board of Directors at the HCDNNJ's *Under One Roof* conference.

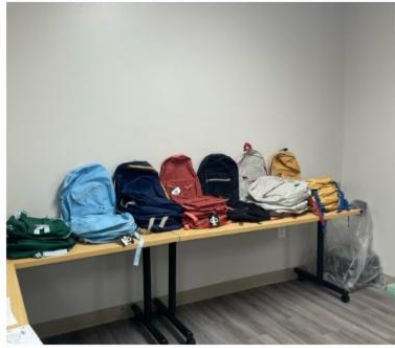
Bethea oversees all financial, managerial and revenue-generating departments and activities within the agency. He is the chief negotiator of all contracts and leases and serves as chief developer on all construction projects. He is responsible for the Operations, Finance and Human Resources Departments as well as, Head Start, Health Services, Economic Development, Social Services, Information Technology, Weatherization, Property Management and Facility Maintenance. He brings years of experience in tax consulting, financial planning, cash flow projection and asset management to Gateway, and maintains approval authority on all agency spending. He is also directly responsible for the interactions between Gateway and financial institutions and governmental entities. Mr. Bethea currently serves as President of the Bridgeton City Municipal Council and joined the Network Board of Directors in 2020.



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## **OceanFirst Bank Volunteers Provide New Coats For Head Start Children On CommunityFirst Day**

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On Thursday, October 6, all OceanFirst Bank branches and offices closed at noon to volunteer within the community for CommunityFirst Day. More than 900 OceanFirst employees, known as WaveMakers, volunteered at nonprofits for more than 3,600 service hours combined.

Gateway's River's Edge Head Start and Cheryl Chadwick Infant and Toddler Center in Bridgeton were among the recipients, as well as Head Start and Early Head Start Centers in Glassboro, Williamstown, Atlantic City, Buena, Galloway, Hammonton, Linwood, Pleasantville, Egg Harbor Township, Villas, and Woodbine. The OceanFirst Foundation partnered with Operation Warm on this project, providing each child with a brand-new winter coat and/or shoes to keep them cozy throughout the fall and winter.

Gateway's President and CEO Albert B. Kelly, Executive Vice President and COO Ed Bethea, and Senior Vice President/Director of Government Banking at OceanFirst Bank and Gateway board member Ed Geletka worked alongside the volunteers to greet children and their families and hand out coats at River's Edge Head Start and Cheryl Chadwick Infant and Toddler Center.

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## **Ruby Love, Gateway Board Chair, and Kyana Evans, Program Operations Manager Presented With Women's Achievement Award**

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**Kyana Evans and Ruby Love (photo on left). Commissioner Jim Jefferson, Evans, Director Frank DiMarco, Councilwoman Jennifer Turner (photo on right).**

The 2020-2022 Women of Achievement Awards, sponsored by Gloucester County Board of Commissioners and Gloucester County Commission on Women, was held October 19, 2022 at Auletto's Caterers in Deptford, NJ. Kyana Evans, Program Operations Manager and Ms. Ruby Love, Gateway Board Chair, were among those honored at the event. For more than 30 years, Gloucester County women's organizations have recognized women for their outstanding contributions to their professional field, humanitarianism, volunteerism, and contributions to their communities. After a slight recess due to the public health emergency, Gloucester County Commission for Women continues to recognize and honor the many achievements and positive impact women have had on the county.

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## **Health Department Provides COVID and Flu Safety Information At Twin Rivers Head Start**

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The East Windsor Health Department came to the Twin Rivers Head Start center to talk to the parents about their clinics for the flu/COVID shots and provided back packs with information about COVID and flu season, hand sanitizer and home kits for COVID tests.

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## Family Success Centers Donate Backpacks To Community

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Gateway's three Family Success Centers - Greater Bridgeton Family Success Center, Holly City Family Success Center (Millville) and the Salem Family Success Center - collectively donated more than 50 backpacks to Stronger Families and Church By The Bay. Pictured are Strong Families Job Coach Bob Hadley and Lou Strugala, Pastor of Church By The Bay.

## Gateway's Food Pantry and Urban Farm Welcome New Staff And Volunteers

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Gateway's Food Pantry on 65 Manheim Ave. in Bridgeton welcomed new staff members and volunteers to the team. In photo on left are Marcus Weaver, Gateway's Director of Agriculture and Food Initiatives and new volunteer Glory Joy Simpkins. In photo on right, from left: Madison Hayes (new staff/Urban Farm and Food Pantry), Heather Pagiughi (volunteer), Rachelle Robinson (Food Pantry coordinator), Citlali Marroquin (Urban Farm), Leanor Marroquin (Urban Farm), Sabrina T. Simpkins (Family Success Center Resource Coordinator).

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## Head Start Attends Community Health And Wellness Festival

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Staff from Gateway's Head Start participated in the Sustainable Health and Wellness Village Festival on October 15 in the Showboat Hotel in Atlantic City. The Festival was held to connect at-risk populations with community resource providers to expand access to healthcare and enable self-advocacy to advance public health outcomes and quality of life within urban and minority communities.

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## Fathers Spend Quality Time With Children At Twin Rivers Head Start

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Fathers and father figures were invited to outdoor activities at Twin Rivers Head Start to enjoy and have fun with their children. Kids were so happy to paint, blow bubbles, draw, and play with their dads, brothers, and uncles.

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## Firefighters Visit Hamilton 1 Head Start To Teach Fire Safety

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Local firefighters visited students at Hamilton 1 Head Start for Fire Prevention Month this October. Students lined up in hard hats to see the fire truck and learn fire safety.

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## National Head Start Association Visits Paulsboro Head Start

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**Malkia Payton-Jackson, the Director of Alumni Engagement with the National Head Start Association (NHSA), conducted a site visit at the Paulsboro Head Start center as part of Head Start Awareness Month. She also gathered feedback by connecting with a number of Head Start Alumni. Additionally, this was an opportunity to have productive dialogue on the challenges that Head Start faces, such as staff shortages and under-enrollment.**

**Pauletta Jackson, Director of Paulsboro Head Start, and the rest of the Paulsboro HS team did a wonderful job hosting the tour. Payton-Jackson expressed how impressed she was with the site, staff, and children, and was amazed with the advanced vocabulary of one of our children in the HS classroom.**

**The next NHSA visit will be in Atlantic City on November 3.**

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You can support Gateway's mission "to provide services that improve the quality of life and promote self-sufficiency" while shopping at Amazon's "AmazonSmile." Please click on the link below the next time you shop. More information about the program follows the link. Thank you.

[Click Here To Donate To Gateway Through AmazonSmile!](#)

## **About AmazonSmile**

### **What is AmazonSmile?**

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Gateway Community Action Partnership every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Gateway.

### **How do I shop at AmazonSmile?**

To shop at AmazonSmile simply click on the link above or go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

### **Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?**

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

### **Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?**

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

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## **Welcome to Gateway CAP's New Hires!**

**Cassandra Avila, Southeast Gateway  
Mariela Garcia, Wellness Center  
Ligia Morales Cabal, Early Head Start**

**Monica Meek, Early Head Start**  
**Edna Ballard, Early Head Start**  
**Brenda Ponce, Head Start**  
**Jaleysha Santana, Head Start**  
**Chardonnay Goldsboro, Head Start**  
**Nickolaos Chryssomitis, Head Start**  
**Shaquora Britt, Atlantic Cape Early Learning Center**  
**Kimberly Hernandez, Early Head Start**  
**Tiffany Gonzalez, Pleasantville Abbott**  
**Kelly Mendoza, Atlantic Cape Early Learning Center**

**Gateway Community Action Partnership**

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Contact Us Today



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