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January 2024 Newsletter

Hello,

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.

Gateway Community Action Celebrates Its 60th Anniversary

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced a "War on Poverty." He recognized that poverty was closely linked to racial discrimination and urged Congress to pass legislation that would tackle poverty in America. The bills he proposed addressed civil rights, jobs and economic development, education, training, health, housing, youth opportunities, and

support for seniors and people with disabilities. In August of the same year, Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act (EOA), which is considered the cornerstone of the War on Poverty. This act led to the establishment of Community Action Agencies, which continue to operate across the United States today.

January is known as Poverty Awareness Month. More than 1,000 Community Action Agencies under the National Community Action Agency (NCAP) are working to help families improve their financial stability and build assets to support long-term success and resilience. These agencies understand that poverty is not an unchangeable condition affecting only a few unlucky individuals. Instead, it is a multidimensional human experiential state with many causes and conditions that can be shaped by policy decisions.

In 2024, NCAP is celebrating 60 years of working toward ending poverty, a “War on Poverty.”

You can visit Gateway’s website to view a complete list of the programs they offer to communities. These programs include LIHEAP Home Energy Assistance and Emergency Services, Head Start and Early Head Start, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Centers, Wellness Center support, Family Success Centers, Weatherization, Emergency Assistance Food Pantry, and additional programs.

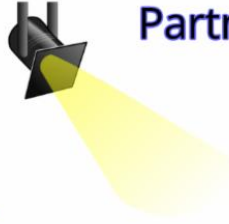


Planning Efforts For Balanced And Equitable Housing And Community Choices For New Jersey Residents In 2024.



Edward Bethea, Executive Vice President and COO of Gateway Community Action Partnership was elected Chairman of the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey (HCDNNJ). The HCDNNJ aims to promote balanced and equitable housing and community choices for NJ residents in 2024. HCDNNJ met with Acting Commissioner Jacquelyn Suárez of the NJ Department of Community Affairs to explore opportunities to support NJ communities. With 250+ members, HCDNNJ allows Bethea to represent Gateway and South Jersey communities and support affordable housing efforts. Staci Berger, HCDNNJ Executive Director, expressed gratitude for the productive meeting.

Gateway's Partner Of The Month Spotlight



Partner of the Month Spotlight



Our Partner of the Month for January 2024 is Conner Strong & Buckelew.
We thank Conner Strong & Buckelew for all its generous contributions to Gateway CAP.

Gateway Community Action Partnership (CAP) extends its sincere appreciation to Conner Strong & Buckelew for their generous contributions. The act of corporate social responsibility demonstrated by Conner Strong & Buckelew is laudable and serves as a commendable example for other businesses. Such philanthropic gestures contribute to the betterment of society, and we are grateful for their support.

Gateway Community Action Head Start Hamilton 1 Center Receives Donated Coats



The Hamilton 1 Head Start Center of Gateway Community Action Partnership received a generous donation of coats from the Hamilton Rotary Club. The donation was presented by Yolanda Zaffuti-Stinger, Eileen Eversheim, and Dr. James A. Federici, and will be distributed to all enrolled children of the center.

Pellettieri Homes Seniors Make Christmas Donations To Mercer County Head Start



Gateway CAP at the Mercer County division received Christmas donations from the Seniors at Pellettieri Homes, for the children. The staff, children, and their families were thrilled to receive their generous donations.

Gateway Family Success Centers Holds Their 8th Annual Giving Tree Christmas Program



Gateway Community Action Partnership Family Success Centers' (FSC) 8th Annual Giving Tree Christmas Program was a resounding success, serving over 700 children in Millville, Bridgeton, Salem, and Paulsboro. We thank the multiple ShopRite stores in Atlantic County for sponsoring the program. The Gateway's FSC Resource Coordinator, Sabrina T. Simpkins, staff, and volunteers worked tirelessly to plan and execute the program, which officially ended on December 24th.

Maria Rojas, a Gateway's Gleaning Staff member, played an instrumental role in helping more than 100 families receive their gifts by personally contacting and assisting them. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Gateway staff and all the amazing volunteers, including Evelyn E. Simpkins, Dallas Pitts, Kate Tasch, Michelle Kennedy, Jo Pearson, Javier Galindo, Kim Nardi, and Glory Joy Simpkins, who made the program a huge success.

We would also like to thank Karen Shapiro and Michael Cudemo from the Bridgeton Lions Club for their generous donations of toys and gifts towards the Giving Tree Program.

Law Enforcement Volunteers Join Forces With Gateway CAP's Food Distribution Efforts



The Gateway Community Action Partnership **Emergency Assistance** Food Pantry Staff, led by Marcus Weaver, Director of Agriculture & Food Initiatives, were joined by volunteers from the Office of Professional Standards of the NJ Parole Board, NJ State Police, and the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department on Monday, January 22. The volunteers, organized by State Police Chaplain Lou Strugala, distributed clothing alongside our food distribution event. Despite the temperatures that started in the low teens, 122 families were served.

Paulsboro Youth Participates In A Design Day With KABOOM! For New Playground



Gateway Community Action Partnership, Atlantic City Electric, and the Borough of Paulsboro are collaborating with KABOOM! to construct a playground in Buck Street Park. The local children from Loudenslager School and the Boys and Girls Club of Paulsboro took part in the designing process on Wednesday, January 24, by creating drawings of their ideal playgrounds during Design Day.

The final design for the playground will be inspired by the children's drawings, and elements from their drawings will be incorporated into the design options. The final design will be chosen by the community in February and Build Day will take place in April. Volunteers from Gateway Community Action Partnership, Atlantic City Electric, the Borough of Paulsboro, and others will bring the design concepts to life, inspired by the children's drawings in Paulsboro, New Jersey. FOX29 News and Mosaic NJ were present to cover the event.

Our Condolences To John Washington's Family



We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of John Washington, the former Chairman of the Gateway Community Action Partnership Board of Directors. John was an exceptional leader whose unwavering commitment to our organization and community significantly impacted countless lives.

John's exemplary leadership and dedication to service were instrumental in shaping the direction and success of our organization. His passion for positively impacting the lives of those we serve was evident in every decision and initiative he championed. John served on the Gateway CAP board for an impressive 25 years, starting in 1994, and was a former Mayor of Penns Grove.

During this difficult time, we extend our heartfelt condolences to John's family, friends, and colleagues. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they navigate through the grief of losing a beloved family member. We honor John's legacy and will continue to work tirelessly to build upon the foundation he helped establish for Gateway Community Action Partnership.

Welcome to Gateway CAP's New Hires!

BRIANNA ROBBINS - Gateway Scholars
CARLOS VAZQUEZ - Facilities Associate

COREY KALINOWSKI - Program Nutritionist
CRYSTAL NOEL - EHS Teachers Assistant
DONAY MILBOURNE - Gateway Scholars
FLORETTA PALIN-MILLER - Cook
JUDITH MURAWSKI - EHS Teacher
JULIA LOPEZ - SUB Teacher Assistant
PAOLA ROMAN BURGOS - Breastfeeding Counselor/WIC Clerk
RACHAEL TORRES - EHS Teacher
TASNIM AHMED - Teacher

Here Are Some Winter Safety Tips For 2024

 **ON THE ROAD**

STAY SAFE THIS WINTER



SLOW DOWN
Leave early. Add cushion to your normal drive.



SKID SMARTS

Learn how to handle your car **BEFORE** you go into a skid.



HAVE PATIENCE
Be willing to wait for better road conditions.

BE PREPARED
Road delays happen. Put together & carry a road trip safety kit.



SKID 101
Winter driving classes are a great idea.



SHOULDER SAFETY
If you pull over, get as far on the shoulder as possible, turn off headlights & turn on hazards.



DON'T CRUISE CONTROL

Your tires may spin too fast on slick roads, causing you to lose control.



BE SEEN
Turn on your low-beam

PASSING PRECAUTION
Allow lots more distance for passing - or just don't pass.

Preventing Slips & Falls This Winter



Wear appropriate footwear



Be extra careful when getting in and out of vehicles



Watch for slippery floors when entering buildings



Don't walk with your hands in your pockets



Walk flat-footed in icy areas



Winter Home Tips

Follow these tips for a happy and safe winter season!

Prepare for power outages

Keep a stock of supplies you may need in case of a bad snow storm or power outage. Food, water, batteries, and blankets are key! (Make sure you keep these in your car, too)



Prevent frozen pipes

Wrap your pipes in insulation sleeves and regularly run water through the pipes to prevent them from freezing. Consider draining the pipes if you'll be away from home for a long period of time.

Protect pets' paws

The chemicals in salt and sand used for de-icing sidewalks can harm pets and damage concrete. If you are unable to clear the ice, use cat litter or straw to create traction!



Protect roofs from leaks

Ice dams can cause some serious damage, including leaks. Prevent them ahead of the first big snow by adding in extra insulation in the attic or crawlspace.

Prevent fires

Upcoming Notable Dates In February

Black History Month 2024: The theme is "African Americans and the Arts."

National Freedom Day: February 1.

Groundhog Day: February 2

Valentine's Day: February 14.

Lincoln's Birthday Observed - Agency Closed: February 16

President's Day Observed - Agency Closed: February 19

Gateway Community Action Partnership

110 Cohansey Street
Bridgeton, NJ 08302
Phone: (856) 451-6330

Contact Us Today



Gateway Community Action Partnership | 110 Cohansey Street, Bridgeton, NJ 08302

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