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December 2025 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.

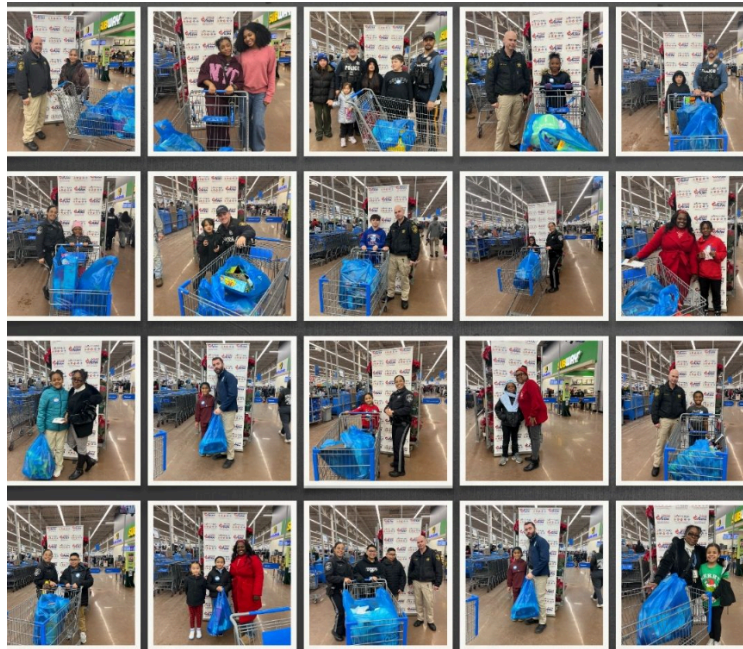
CAP Promise: Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

Shop With A Hero 2025

The Gateway Community Action Partnership (CAP) Fifth Shop With A Hero program was held in Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties. Local law enforcement officers and Atlantic City Electric joined Gateway to make the holidays a little brighter for at-risk youth in the area between the ages of 7 and 13.



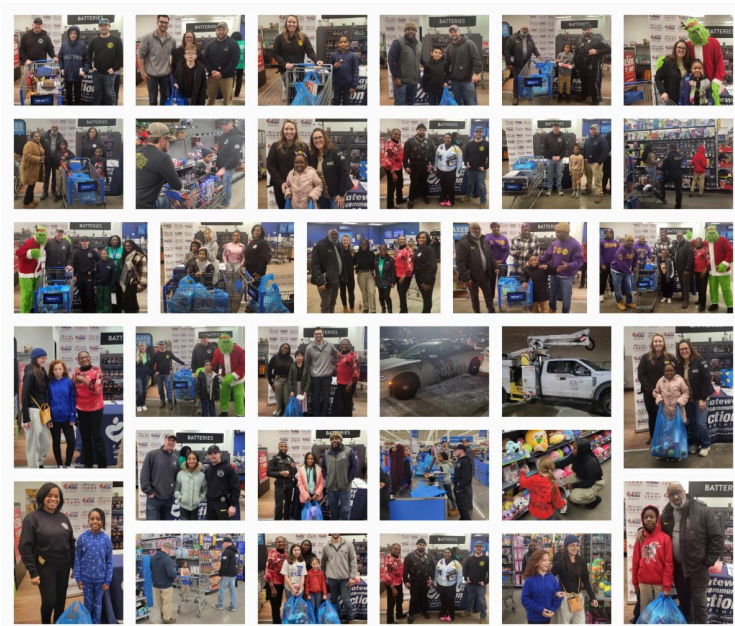
Photos from the Upper Deerfield Walmart on the first day of Shop With A Hero. Ed Bethea, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (second photo from the top row), was present to welcome the volunteers and participants of the event. Gateway CAP extends a warm thank you to the sororities and fraternities that also volunteered.



Here are photos from December 16 in the Upper Deerfield Walmart. Gateway CAP thanks Atlantic City Electric, the Bridgeton PD, the Sheriff's Department, and the Prosecutor's Office for their commitment and volunteering staff to our SWAH program.



During the second stop of Gateway's 2025 Shop With A Hero program, officers from the Carney's Point and Pennsville Police Departments, along with volunteers from the Salem County Sheriff's Department and Atlantic City Electric, gathered at the Pennsville Walmart. Their goal was to bring joy to Gateway families during the holiday season.



Gateway's 2025 Shop With A Hero program concluded with a visit to the Walmart in Woodbury/Deptford. Volunteers from Atlantic City Electric brought a bucket truck for the children to explore and joined officers from the Deptford and Paulsboro police departments, as well as representatives from the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office, to uplift the spirits of local families. Members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity also volunteered to support the event, and even the Grinch made an appearance!

Thank You Sika



Gateway Community Action Partnership (CAP) would like to express its gratitude to Sika for its generous donation. Recently, Sika opened its new Northeast Anchor Site on Route 77, where they produce bagged concrete mixes and other products. The Bridgeton-based

location organized a food drive to support the Gateway Food Pantry. Ed Bethea, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (far left in photo), was present to extend his thanks and appreciation for the donation.

Atlantic City Electric's Steven Serrano Visits Paulsboro Head Start



Paulsboro Head Start visit with Steven Serrano, a senior executive at Atlantic City Electric. Steven also serves as Vice President of the Board of Education (BOE) in his hometown of Washington Township,

River's Edge Early Learning Center Participates In the Christmas Parade



Gateway's Rivers Edge Early Learning Center participated in the City of Bridgeton Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 13, 2025.

Linwood Head Start/Early Head Start Receives Christmas Donations



Gateway's Linwood Head Start/Early Head Start had a Merry Christmas with "a big and lovely" donation for each of our children, toys, cookies and pizza from the Linwood Police Dept. and the Atlantic County Toys for Kids Program.

December Happenings At Twin Rivers Head Start

In December, Gateway's Twin Rivers Head Start received donations from various companies, organizations, and individuals for the children during the holiday season.



Mercedes Benz donated toys



St. Paul's Lutheran Church graciously donated sweat suits, hats, mittens, books, and a \$10 gift card from McDonald's to each child.



Food Distribution from the Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS)

Twin Rivers Head Start also received other donations:

- The Women's Club of Cranbury donated books for the children
- Kathy Wise donated Christmas ornaments and candies for the parents

The Division of Consumer Affairs Is Reminding New Jersey Residents To Be Aware Of SNAP-Related Fraud

SNAP Fraud

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

consumer **alert**

The Division of Consumer Affairs is reminding New Jersey residents to be aware of SNAP-related fraud.

Scammers may call or text asking for your SNAP PIN or EBT card number and promise to help you obtain SNAP benefits or help you get instant cash while you await your SNAP benefits. These scammers are trying to steal your benefits and your personal information. Other scammers may ask you for an upfront payment for help applying for or receiving SNAP benefits; but SNAP assistance is always free. New Jersey urges you to take precautions against these scams.

NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS CAN PROTECT THEMSELVES:

- ▶ DO NOT share your PIN, EBT card number, or other personal information (like social security numbers or bank account information) with anyone you do not know or trust! State agencies and SNAP workers will never ask you for this information over the phone or via text message.
- ▶ Anyone you do not know who offers to help you apply for benefits, obtain cash tied to your benefits, or to release funds is a scammer. You can find help applying for SNAP benefits here - <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/apply/help/>.
- ▶ Check your EBT account regularly for unauthorized charges. You can check your account at NJFamiliesFirst.com or by calling 800-997-3333. If you see any unauthorized charges, change your PIN right away to stop the thief from making new purchases and contact your county social service agency - <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dfd/counties/>.
- ▶ Be wary of unexpected phone calls or text messages concerning your SNAP benefits. Never reply to a suspected scammer. If you do not know if a request for

information about SNAP is real, contact your county social service agency.

- ▶ Change your EBT PIN often, at least once a month and right before your next benefits are issued.
- ▶ If you think a call, text, email, or letter is a SNAP-related scam, report it to your county social service agency.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES:

NJ Division of Consumer Affairs - <https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/>

NJ SNAP - <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/>

Federal Trade Commission - <https://consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts/2024/05/protect-your-snap-benefits-illegal-card-skimmers>

U.S. Department of Agriculture - <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/stolen-benefits>

Contact the Division of Consumer Affairs at:

1-800-242-5846

(toll free within New Jersey)

or **973-504-6200**

800-242-5846 • N.J. Division of Consumer Affairs
www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov

snap-fraud-alert • 11/03/25



Scammers may contact you, asking for your SNAP PIN or EBT card number while promising to help you with SNAP benefits or instant cash. These scammers are trying to steal your benefits and personal information. Just to remind you, SNAP assistance is always free, and you should be careful of anyone asking for upfront payments. New Jersey urges you to protect yourself against these scams.
For more on the topic, click the link above.

Paulsboro Head Start Center Receives Thanksgiving Food Baskets



Gateway Paulsboro Head Start Center, thanks Second Baptist Church (SBC) of Paulsboro for providing Thanksgiving food baskets for families in our Early Head Start and Head Start (EHS/HS) program. SBC has been a great partner, and we thank them for their continued support.

Partner Of The Month Spotlight



Gateway Community Action Partnership (CAP) Partner of the Month for December 2025 is OceanFirst Bank. We thank OceanFirst Bank for all its generous contributions to Gateway CAP.

Gateway Community Action Partnership (CAP) appreciates OceanFirst Bank's generous support. Their commitment to corporate social responsibility is commendable and sets a strong example for other organizations to follow. Philanthropic efforts like these are crucial for enhancing society, and their support will significantly strengthen our initiatives.

We sincerely thank the Horizon Foundation for its exceptional assistance and extraordinary kindness.

The Monarch FSC Is Under New Management

Under New Management

As of November 1, the Monarch Family Success Center at 1038 E Chestnut Ave, Ste 235, Vineland, NJ will be administered by Gateway CAP. Gateway will be expanding mobile locations soon.



HOURS OF PROGRAM OPERATIONS:
8:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M. MON-FRI.
MONARCH FSC WILL ALSO BE OPEN ONE
EVENING A WEEK AND ONE SATURDAY
EACH MONTH TO BE ANNOUNCED.
CALL US AT 856-462-5810

The Monarch Family Success Center, located at 1038 E. Chestnut Ave, Suite 235, Vineland, New Jersey, is now under new management, effective November 1, 2025. The Gateway Action Partnership is currently providing services and will soon expand its mobile locations. The facility is open one evening a week and one Saturday each month; the days and times are to be announced.

For more information, please call 856-462-5810.

Gateway's Weatherization Program

Weatherization Improves Utility Costs & Health Outcomes!



The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) efficiently retrofits below standard low-income homes, greatly improving residents' utility costs and health outcomes.



Winter is coming! Are you concerned about your home's energy efficiency? For more information on Gateway's Weatherization Program, please visit <https://www.gatewaycap.org/weatherization> or call (856) 455-5900.

Major Winter Hazards To Avoid

Winter weather presents distinct challenges that can pose serious risks if not properly managed. From cold-weather-related illnesses to accidents caused by ice and snow, recognizing these hazards is the first step in prevention. Below are the most common dangers people face during the winter months:

- **Frostbite:** Protect your skin from freezing temperatures by wearing layers of warm clothing and keeping your nose, ears, cheeks, chin, fingers, and toes covered.
- **Hypothermia:** Dress warmly, limit exposure to the cold, and avoid getting wet. If you must go outside, use a scarf to cover your face and mouth.
- **Road Accidents:** Drive carefully, clear snow and ice from your vehicle, use traction materials, and avoid sharp turns and sudden stops.
- **Home Fires:** Inspect your home heating system, use safe alternative heating options, and never use ovens or stoves for heating indoors.
- **Prevent pipe freezes:** Insulate water pipes with foam sleeves, heat tape, or thermostat-controlled heat cables. When temperatures are expected to drop below 28 degrees Fahrenheit for at least four hours, let at-risk faucets drip to reduce the likelihood of frozen and burst pipes.
- **Weather-Related Injuries:** Prevent falls by wearing appropriate footwear, walking slowly on slippery surfaces, and using outdoor stairways with caution.
- When shoveling snow, there is a potential for exhaustion, dehydration, back injuries, or heart attacks. During snow removal, take frequent breaks in warm areas, **warm up** before the activity, scoop small amounts of snow at a time, and, where possible, push the snow instead of lifting it.
- By taking these precautions, you can reduce the risk of severe winter hazards and ensure a safer winter season.



A Successful Collaboration



Gateway CAP Head Start collaborated with Real Action for Children's Education (RACE) and successfully conducted a community food service event for families and children at the Hamilton 1 and Little Cherubs centers. Gateway CAP is proud to collaborate with RACE to provide food to families every month, along with take-home bags for the children three times a month. We are especially grateful for the support from RACE, particularly from Mr. David Jallah, Mr. Momolu E. Kamara, and Ms. Mildred Twalla, who believe in our mission. Together, we are battling hunger and spreading hope.

Welcome to Gateway CAP's New Hires!

Awilda Toribio Cuevas - DOE Teacher Assistant

Delry Williams - Code Blue Assistant

Dina Lewis - Temp Child/Family Site Director

Donald Kwasnicki - Code Blue Assistant 2nd Shift

Gisellyn Miranda - Volunteer-Coordinator

James Suggs - Code Blue Assistant

Jasmine Clowden - EHS Teacher

Jhenelle Lewis - Domestic Violence Intervention Specialist

Jenna Harvey - Code Blue Manager

Jessica Jenkins - Family Partner Worker

Melodie Norton - DOE Teacher

Timothy Gillam - Code Blue Assistant 2nd Shift

Tonya Allen Brown - Code Blue Assistant

Tracey Wallace - Doe Teacher Assistant

William Kennedy - Code Blue Assistant

Did you know?



Did you know there are fermented foods that are great for gut health? Fermented foods introduce beneficial bacteria into our digestive systems, potentially improving everything from digestion to immunity. [Home as We Make It](#) offers that fermentation is one of humanity's oldest food preservation techniques, dating back thousands of years across nearly every culture. The beauty of fermentation is that you can transform ordinary foods into probiotic powerhouses right in your kitchen, such as sauerkraut, yogurt, kefir, garlic honey, sourdough bread, and many others.

Please click the link above for detailed information and guidance.

You can also check out [30 Foods High In Probiotics](#) to eat for better gut health, according to dietitians.

Goodbye December, Thank You For The Holiday Memories!



Gateway CAP thanks its staff, partners, and well-wishers for their contributions and support throughout 2025 and wishes everyone a bright 2026.



Holiday Recipe To Enjoy

Christmas is over, and we look forward to the new year. In many households, the aroma of baked goods will continue to fill the air, serenading the season's continuation. Here is a recipe you can try to impress your family and guests this coming New Year celebration.

Lotus Biscoff Trifle



[Recipeseide](#) describes this trifle as not just delicious, but as an experience that will have your guests reaching for seconds and asking for the recipe. It features layered cookies with

cream and pudding. This Lotus Biscoff Trifle is a dreamy, no-bake dessert perfect for any occasion!

If you're a fan of the iconic caramelized Lotus Biscoff cookies, this [Lotus Biscoff Trifle](#) is sure to become your new favorite showstopper dessert!

Click any of the links above for the recipe.

Free Computer Classes At The Cumberland County Library

 Cumberland County Library 800 E. Commerce Street Bridgeton, NJ 08302 (856) 453-2210 Ext. 26100 or x 26101						
FREE Computer Classes Available to County and non-County residents						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Lab & Class hours are subject to change without notice. Registration is required due to limited seating Walk-ins welcomed but registration is preferred.				1 New Year's Day Library Closed	2	3
4	5	6 Learn to Type 10:00am-11:30am DOL Students 2:00pm-3:30pm	7 G-mail Basics 2:00pm-3:30pm	8	9	10 One-on-one training Please call to schedule an appointment
11	12 Computer Basics 10:00am-11:30am	13 How to use flash drive 10:00am-11:30am	14	15 OUTREACH	16 Learn to Type 10:00am-11:30am Computer Basics 2:00pm-3:30pm	17
18	19 Martin Luther King Day Library Closed	20 DOL Students 2:00pm-3:30pm	21 One-on-one training Please call to schedule an appointment	22 OUTREACH	23 Internet Basics 10:00am-11:30am	24
25	26 One-on-one training Please call to schedule an appointment	27 Excel Basics Part 1 2:00pm-3:30pm	28 Excel Basics Part 2 2:00pm-3:30pm	29 OUTREACH	30	31 Zoom Basics 10:00am-11:30am

Date	Class	Description
Jan 6 10:00am-11:30am	Learn to Type	Learn to type or improve your typing skills with guided practice and techniques for speed and accuracy.
Jan 7 2:00pm-3:30pm	G-mail Basics	Learn how to send, receive, attach documents, save to the cloud, delete items from cloud, spell check, add a signature, schedule a message, and format your email. Learn how to delete and block emails. You must have a G-mail account & password or call & make an appointment to create one before class.
Jan 10	One-on-one Training	Please call to schedule an appointment
Jan 12 10:00am- 11:30am	Computer Basics	Learn basic features: hardware, software, mouse, keyboard, Windows 11 desktop, taskbar, start menu, how to sign on/off with user account, using search features, file explorer. How to open a file, folder, and programs. How to save your files and different ways to find them.
Jan 13 10:00am-11:30am	How to use a flash drive	This class introduces students to the basics of working with flash drives as portable storage devices. Learners will explore how to properly insert and remove a flash drive, save and transfer files between computers, and organize documents for easy access.
Jan 16 10:00am-11:30am	Learn to Type	Learn to type or improve your typing skills with guided practice and techniques for speed and accuracy.
Jan 16 2:00pm-3:30pm	Computer Basics	Learn basic features: hardware, software, mouse, keyboard, Windows 11 desktop, taskbar, start menu, how to sign on/off with user account, using search features, file explorer. How to open a file, folder, and programs. How to save your files and different ways to find them.
Jan 21	One-on-one Training	Please call to schedule an appointment
Jan 23 10:00am-11:30am	Internet Basics	Learn basics of Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, how to use the main screen, learn the difference between the address bar and searching, how to change your home page, how to open and separate tabs, what are hyperlinks and how to navigate websites, and more.
Jan 26	One-on-one Training	Please call to schedule an appointment
Jan 27 2:00pm-3:30pm	Excel Basics Part 1	Learn Excel basics—navigating the main screen, entering data, creating and saving spreadsheets, using cursors, editing rows/columns, formatting cells, managing worksheets, and customizing workbook settings
Jan 28 2:00pm-3:30pm	Excel Basics Part 2	Learn how to create a spreadsheet with basic formulas using, sum, average, min, max, how to use the flash fill, how to create a spreadsheet and pull data from your worksheet to a summary page.
Jan 31 10:00am-11:30am	Zoom Basics	Learn how to use Zoom for meetings. This class covers how to join a meeting, turn your camera/microphone on/off. Use basic features like chat and screen sharing. Perfect for beginners who want to connect with other online easily and confidently.

Are you looking to enhance your computer skills or learn new ones? Cumberland County Library offers free computer classes every month. The January schedule is attached. These classes are open to both county residents and non-residents.

To register, please call (856) 453-2210, extension 26100.

OR

Email: www.cclnj.org

Upcoming Notable Dates In January

New Year's Day - January 1 (Agency Closed)

Martin Luther King Day - January 19 (Agency Closed)

Gateway Community Action Partnership

110 Cohansey Street
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Contact Us Today



Phone: (856) 451-6330

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

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