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June 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.

Penns Grove II Head Start Remembers Severino Family In Moving Ceremony

Penns Grove II Head Start is more than a Head Start Center. It is a place of caring and kindness. A place where the parents and guardians and children gather as a family. In a solemn ceremony on June 16, Gateway Community Action Partnership remembered three of those family members whose lives were lost a little more than a year ago due to domestic violence. Center staff and Gateway leadership, including President and CEO Albert B. Kelly, planted three rose bushes in front of the center and placed a plaque as a lasting memorial to Ruth Reyes Severino, Eurianny Severino and Eury Severino. Kelly, Bonnie Eggenburg, Gateway's VP of Early Head Start/Head Start, and Dionne Pitts, the center director, also addressed the gathering.

“Today we are here to remember the lives that were lost,” Kelly said. “I want to thank you, the staff, for the work you do here. I want you to continue to keep your heads held up high and knowing that your work is not in vain. I thank you for what you are doing in healing this community and caring for its families.”

Included in the ceremony was a moving and heartfelt invocation and benediction from Pastor Ronald J. Corsey from Hopewell Baptist Church in Penns Grove. There was a musical selection – Kimberly Clark in song and Deurward Clark on piano. Kimberly Clark is a Head Start coach. There was also a stone writing activity to add to the remembrance.

“Our community was struck with a tragedy just over a year ago,” Eggenburg said. “Something that broke the hearts of many of us. But today is not a day for sadness. Today is a day for the celebration of the lives of three beautiful souls. Two wonderful children and a mom.”

Pitts recognized the efforts of her closely-knit staff and added words of comfort and strength. “I want to thank my staff,” Pitts said. “This ceremony wasn’t just my idea. It was the staff. We wanted to pay homage to the family. It was a tragedy all the way around. I want to thank everybody on our staff for standing together strong. We fought the fight. We are still here together.”



River's Edge Gets a Head Start On The New School Year As This One Comes To A Close



The River's Edge Head Start Center hosted "Are You Ready? Let's Go for the New School Year" for all Head Start families to kick off the end of this school year in preparation for the next. Families were offered resources for available services and programs offered at Gateway and within the community that would support them along the way. Parents and children enjoyed fun games and activities, photo exhibits of Head Start activities, and food throughout the event.

Hamilton 1 Head Start Celebrates Fathers In End Of The Year Event



In celebration of the end of the school year, Hamilton 1 Head Start hosted various activities in collaboration with Head Start parents. Children performed for their parents and received certificates for completing the school year along with summer packets and other goodies. The children also celebrated Father's Day as an end-of-the-year kickoff for the Fatherhood Initiative program.

Hamilton 1 Site Director Aline Skaff expressed tremendous gratitude for all of her staff members who played an essential role in the growth and development of the children who attended the center throughout the school year.

Cultural Appreciation Parade Held At Hamilton 1 Head Start



The Hamilton 1 Head Start Center held its 8th Annual Cultural Parade on June 15. Children, parents and center staff all participated by dressing up in their cultural clothes, carrying flags from several countries, and playing musical instruments. The parade served to celebrate the diversity of the community Gateway Community Action Partnership serves.

First United Methodist Church In Millville Distributes Food From Gateway's Pantry



The First United Methodist Church in Millville operates both a food pantry and serves prepared meals to residents. Gateway's Food Pantry supplies food for both programs. Pictured above from the left are Christi and Donna. The cases of disinfecting wipes the two women are holding were part of a large donation from last month. Gateway's food pantry received four pallets of wipes, two of which were given to Head Start.

Twin Rivers Head Start Learns About Law Enforcement From A Special Guest



Special guest Officer Nicole Orbin from the East Windsor Police Department, visited Twin Rivers Head Start to talk to the children about what it means to be a police officer, her role in the community, and important information about what to do in an emergency.

East Windsor Health Department Works With Twin Rivers Head Start For COVID-19 Prevention



The East Windsor Township Health Department set up a table outside the Twin Rivers Head Start Center during pick up time at the end of the day to hand out essential items related to the prevention of COVID-19 to the families and staff of the Head Start community. These items included a free at home test kit, disposable masks, hand sanitizer, and informational pamphlets, which were also available in Spanish.

**Twin Rivers Head Start Ends The School Year
With An Exciting Twist**



As part of the end of school celebration, the Twin Rivers-Head Start center held different activities for the children such as face painting, temporary tattoos, bubble wands, games, a fashion show, and a picture booth. Certificates were awarded to all of the children for completing the school year.

Gateway's Head Start Centers Receive A Large Donation Of Crayons For Students



The United Advocacy Group Families to College program, working with students at Bridgeton High School, collected 230 bags of crayons and donated them to Gateway Community Action Partnership's Head Start for the Head Start children. Bridgeton High students personalized the bags of crayons with artwork and messages to the children. Local businesses also donated. UAG's Stephanie Gonzalez, Jayshona Redfurn and Evan Morris delivered the crayons to Gateway Tuesday morning. Accepting the crayons were Albert B. Kelly, Gateway's President and CEO, and Felicia Moore, from Head Start. In the photo, from left: Stephanie Gonzalez, Jayshona Redfurn, Evan Morris, Albert B. Kelly and Felicia Moore.

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.

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Welcome to Gateway CAP's New Hires!

Sydney Bazilian, Program Planner

Dianette Meza, WIC Clerk/ Peer Counselor

Awilda Rupiza Prosper, Wellness on Wheels Driver

Marcelle Reddick, Sub Food Service Worker

Rosa Chiqui, Sub Teacher Assistant

Ivory Witherspoon, EHS Group Teacher

Marnie Rotter, EHS Education Coordinator

Tyashiza Lawrence, Family Advocate

Dennis Turner, Senior Maintenance Tech

Elsa Vasquez, Sub Group Teacher

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