



Make A Donation Today

## April 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.

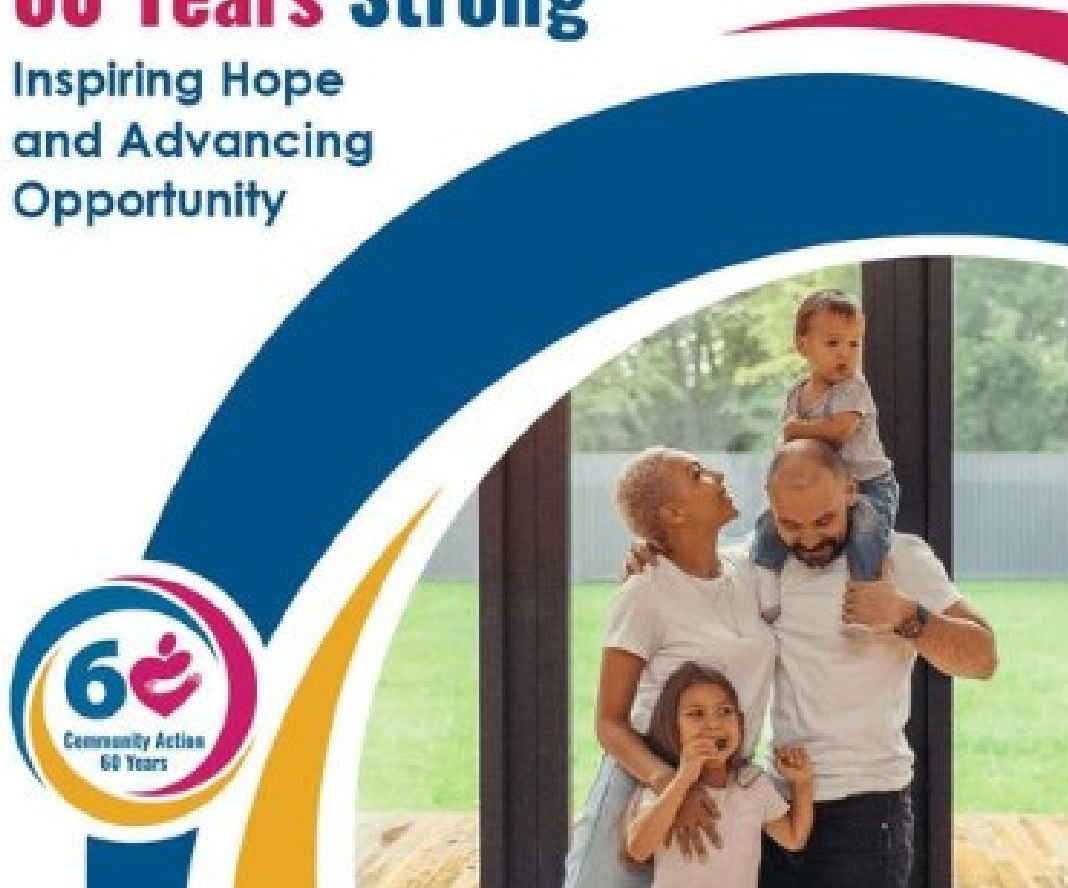
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## Community Action Celebrates 60 Years

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# Community Action, 60 Years Strong

Inspiring Hope  
and Advancing  
Opportunity



This year, 2024, marks 60 years of community action across the National Community Action Network!

For six decades, this growing network has been helping people find pathways to opportunity all across America, building strength and resilience in the communities we serve. Gateway is proud to be a part of the Community Action Network. You can learn more about Community Action Agencies' 60 years at [CommunityAction60](https://www.communityaction60.org).

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**Gateway CAP, Atlantic City Electric, KABOOM!,  
Borough Of Paulsboro, And Paulsboro Community  
Collaborate on Equitable Playspace For Children**

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**More than 130 volunteers from Gateway Community Action Partnership, the Borough of Paulsboro, Atlantic City Electric, KABOOM!, and the Paulsboro community came together to bring a child-designed playground to life at West Buck Street Park in Paulsboro, NJ on April 10. Volunteers had only about 6 hours on this designated “Build Day” to assemble thousands of pounds of playground equipment, fill the space with 138 cubic yards of mulch, build picnic tables, paint a mural, and make sure everything was ready for the children to enjoy.**

**This playground build is the starting point of a longer-term revitalization plan for the Paulsboro community under Gateway’s Neighborhood Revitalization Planning Grant, received in December 2023. It focuses on community-driven projects, like the playground build, to support comprehensive equity-focused community development plans. The project is also part of a nationwide effort led by KABOOM! to end playspace inequity—the reality that far too many children and especially children of color do not get the chance to play on a playground in their community, something that should be part of every child’s**

life. Their work is to ensure every child can experience the numerous physical, social and mental health benefits of play regardless of background or where they live.

"This represents more than just an investment in swings and slides; it symbolizes a dedication to the well-being, joy and unity of our local community. It reflects our profound commitment to fostering secure, welcoming and interactive spaces that support the growth of our children, strengthen family bonds and promote neighborly connections," said Edward Bethea, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Gateway. "We must also emphasize that this new playground will act as a key catalyst for the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative process in the Paulsboro area."

While there are many people to thank for making this playground a reality—including those at Gateway, Atlantic City Electric, KABOOM!, Paulsboro Borough, Elk's Lodge, food vendors (The Zallie Community Foundation, Chick-Fil-A, Heritage's, and Sam's Club), and the Paulsboro community—Gateway would especially like to thank Kyana Evans, Gateway's Program Operations Manager, for facilitating the project on behalf of Gateway and for her dedication to revitalizing her native Paulsboro, NJ. And the project would not have been possible without the leadership of Gateway's President and CEO, Albert B. Kelly, and Executive Vice President and COO Bethea.

Although it was no small task, the hard work and collaboration expressed by all of the volunteers at "Build Day," and in planning efforts leading up to the event over the last few months, allowed us to complete the project on-schedule and bring this shared vision of a supportive playspace for children to life.



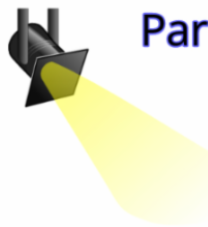




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## Gateway Partner Of The Month Spotlight

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## Partner of the Month Spotlight



Insurance | Risk Management | Consulting

Our Partner of the Month for April 2024 is Gallagher Insurance.  
We thank Gallagher for all its generous contributions to Gateway CAP.

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At Gateway Community Action Partnership (CAP), we express our gratitude to Gallagher Insurance for their substantial donations. The corporate social responsibility demonstrated by Gallagher is noteworthy and serves as an excellent model for other companies. Acts of philanthropy such as this are crucial for societal improvement, and we believe their

assistance will significantly advance our mission. We extend our deepest appreciation for their remarkable support.

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## Head Start Employees Support Jack and Jill of America Inc.

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Gateway CAP's Head Start employees attended a "Taste and Tunes" event on April 13. The Jack and Jill of America Inc., Atlantic City Chapter hosted the event to help raise funds for the FLOUHWERS Inc. organization, with a mission of providing low-income families with access to their most basic needs.

Pictured (from left to right) are Jameka Jones, Ciara Haynes Saunders, Damita White Morris, Colleen Turner, Marlena Rivera, Gloria Andritsopoulos, Averie Jones, Antionette Thomas, and Erica Williams Mosely.

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## Bridgeton's Semi-Annual Citywide Cleanup 2024

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**Ed Bethea, Executive Vice President and COO of Gateway Community Action Partnership, was part of Bridgeton's Semi-Annual Citywide Cleanup 2024. Numerous young individuals, taking pride in their city, participated actively in getting their streets cleaned up during the event on March 30.**

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## **Hamilton 1 Head Start Has Gardening Lesson**

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An enthused parent, Mr. Gumercindo Magana, taught the "Blue Class" at Gateway Community Action Partnership's Hamilton 1 Head Start about gardening.

## Gateway Community Action Partnership's 2024 College Tour



During the 2024 Gateway Community Action Partnership College Tour, the students visited Savannah State University. At the university, the President, Dr. Cynthia Robinson Alexander warmly welcomed the group. Dr. Alexander, a graduate of the Bridgeton Public Schools, took the time to acknowledge and speak to the students at each table during lunch, which was provided. Her message was clear - she encouraged the students to apply for admission to Savannah State, but more importantly, she emphasized the importance of acquiring a good education. The Director of Admissions also presented a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the admission process and available financial assistance to the students. At the end of the visit, several students requested Dr. Alexander's business card to follow up on applying to Savannah State. This visit was a highlight of the school tour and was a proud moment for Bridgeton. Gateway thanks Dr. Alexander for representing South Jersey and making our students feel good about this experience.

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## Twin River's Head Start Students Have Busy April With Interactive Activities

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Twin Rivers Head Start had a busy April filled with exciting activities. Students celebrated Earth Day, for which the center invited parents to plant flowers in a little garden in the playground.

The students also visited the “Bucks County Touch Me Museum,” where they were able to learn by climbing, playing pretend, playing with the water, and discovering new things in the science area.



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**Bring Your Child to Work Day**

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Families from Gateway's Philadelphia EHS and throughout Southern New Jersey participated in Bring Your Child to Work Day on April 24, engaging in activities at various sites such as Administration, Mill Creek Urban Farm/ Food Pantry, Head Start, the Male Initiative, and the Foster Grandparent Program.

**First Row from the Top (left to right):**

Meralis Ibarra's daughter, Jaylene Marie (left)

Yadira Falcón Lead Home Visitor with daughter Jamylee Reyes

Jynell Denby's son Yadullahi Overton, classroom 2

Sarah Perrulli with Mental Health in Mercer - son Julian Davis (left)

Shelly Mihalecz, Gateway Head Start Health Manager - son Logan Mihalecz (right)

Ciara Saunders, Senior Director of Program Services - son Michael Saunders

**Second Row (left to right):**

Mariliz Peterson, Cook, Woodbine Center, with son Izayah Peterson

Dawn Comeaux & Saraelyn H C - Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) - Atlantic County

Maria Velez, FGP Program Director: Burlington, Camden, Gloucester & Salem Co. with Aiden Flores (a former student from Vineland EHS & HS)

**Ebony Roberts, Office Manager, Social Services Department, River's Edge Community Campus, with daughter Summer Roberts**

**Third Row (left to right):**

**Danelle Ransome, Family Advocate, Swedesboro, and Deptford DOE Head Start - granddaughter Amaya Carter**

**Jinnea C. Terrell, Assistant Director of Operations, Philadelphia Region - son Zyon Terrell**

**Michael Cupeles, Male Initiative Coordinator, Atlantic City with daughter Kamilah Cupeles-Villantoy**

**Milouda Rezzaq, Paulsboro Head Start, and her daughter.**

**Lanea Russell Grant, Glassboro Head Start with son Choyer Hamm**

**Fourth Row (left to right):**

**Melina Villantoy and daughter Kamilah Cupeles (right)**

**Desirae Anderson, Family Advocate (far right) with daughter Lily Olexa (middle), and mother Renee Olexa, EHS teacher at Villas Early Education Center**

**Mrs. Carolyn's grandson RJ, Head Start/Early Head Start, Philadelphia**

**Kyana Evans, Operations Department, River's Edge Community Campus, and her nephew Julian Gaines**

**Albert B. Kelly with children of "Bring Your Child to Work" at River's Edge Community Campus**

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**Gateway Wellness Center Summer Youth Employment Program**

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# **Gateway Wellness Center's**

## **SUMMER YOUTH**

# **EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM**

### **About the Program**

- Open to Youth in Cumberland & Salem County
- Youth grades 9th-12th
- Work Hours: Monday- Thursday 10am-2pm
- Stipend received at the completion of the program

**For more Information Call**

**856-497-6650**



**Scan to Apply Today!**

Registration is now open for Gateway Wellness Center's Summer Youth Employment Program.

Are you looking to gain work experience over the summer? This is your chance to unlock your potential! Participate in our dynamic work program to acquire valuable skills and make

a meaningful contribution to your community. Parents, seize this opportunity for your children to develop, learn, and flourish!  
The program welcomes youth in 9th through 12th grades, and participants will be awarded a stipend upon completion of the program.  
Registration for the Gateway Wellness Center's Summer Youth Employment Program is available by scanning the QR code provided.  
OR  
For more information, please call 856-497-6650.

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## Welcome to Gateway CAP's New Hires!

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**Ala Streater - Prevention Specialist**

**Alix Pinto Barros – EHS Teacher**

**Camila Bazan Domestic - Violence Intervention Specialist**

**Cynthia Cuan Anoceto - EHS Teacher**

**Gloria Gonzalez - Floating EHS Teacher**

**Gloria Sucuzhanay - Sub Cook**

**James Ohagan - Doe Teacher Assistant**

**Jeannery Torres – WIC Clerk**

**Kimberly Rodriguez Colon - EHS Teacher**

**Lillian Mercado \*Rehire - Cook**

**Nyssa Nunez - Prevention Specialist**

**Richard Alexander - Floating EHS Teacher**

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## Upcoming Notable Dates In May

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**National Day of Prayer - May 2**

**Cinco de Mayo - May 5**

**National Nurses Day - May 6**

**Mother's Day - May 12**

**Memorial Day - May 27 (Agency Closed)**





**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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