



The Mon Valley Providers Council

Presents

The Communicator

JANUARY 2012 and 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

The Communicator is the official newsletter of the Mon Valley Providers Council (MVPC), an alliance of over 65 human service agencies serving more than 37 communities in the Mon Valley of Allegheny County. To learn more about the MVPC, our member agencies, and their services, read this edition and visit our website at www.hscc--mvpc.org.

What's in This Edition

	Page
MVPC Strategic Priorities for 2012	1
Services at the Human Services Center	2
About MVPC.....	2
MVPC Leadership	2
Communities Served by the MVPC	2
MVPC Strategic Priorities for 2012 Con't.....	3
McKeesport Collaborative	3
FREE Workforce Development Program	3
2012 MVPC Membership Listing.....	3
Personal Paths Case Management Program ...	4
MYCS Has a New Phone Number.....	4
Food Options For You.....	4
CCAC South Job Fair.....	4
2011 MVPC Year in Review	5
Heritage Community Initiatives is Here to Help..	6
Redefining Poverty Actually Makes it Worse	6
Human Services Center Welcomes New Agency -	6
Overstock Optical	6
Student Assistance Training Series	6
Housing Seminar a Success!.....	7
VITA Site Announces Dates.....	7
2011 MVPC Annual Breakfast	7
FREE After-School Program	7
Learn-N-Play Development Center	7
2011 Funder Recognition.....	8

MVPC Strategic Priorities for 2012

On Wednesday, September 28, 2011, the Mon Valley Providers Council (MVPC) hosted a Strategic Plan Synergies Forum with MVPC member agencies that provide direct services in the four Working Group areas: Employment and Training, Health, Housing, and Youth.

The forum was a follow up to last year's Mon Valley Matters meeting and it was intended to help synergize gaps outlined by the four Working Groups with strategies identified by agencies in their respective strategic plans. Nearly 40 Executive Directors and senior leaders of member agencies provided their input, analysis, and thoughtful deliberation at the Forum to reach the following conclusions for pursuit.

1. Transportation issues permeate the

gaps identified by the Working Groups. One potential action step is to host a **transportation forum**.

2. Another potential action step is to **conduct a logistics study of the transportation resources** of our member agencies toward greater **coordination**, economies of scale, and service to more Mon Valley residents.

3. **Credit worthiness** relates to both employment as well as housing. This synergy has multiple agencies in the MVPC membership that can play a vital role in filling the gap and the potential action step is to convene those agencies to find the synergies in approach.

4. **Employment and Training services** have recently experienced significant cut-backs and the Working Group on Employment and Training convened a session with 35 representatives on October 6 which helped to assess "who/what is left standing" and this will lead to a potential conversation about next steps in the broader Employment and Training arena for common action.

5. **Assessing the How to Get a Job and Keep It** seminar's impact on training and job skills can enable a greater impact on the micro-level. This action will be pursued by the Working Group on Employment and Training in its planning for 2012.

6. **Drug and alcohol services are underfunded, most in demand, and regulated in excess.** The potential action here is to help **harness the energy** of County and State provider associations to help impact this area particularly at the state level where an additional layer of bureaucracy is being formed.

7. **Addressing hunger** in the Mon Valley will be pursued by the Working Group on Health by **promoting all of the resources widely and by working with the Food Security Partnership.**

Continued on Page 3

The Communicator

is the official newsletter of the Mon Valley Providers Council (MVPC), a program of the Human Services Center, a United Way Agency

519 Penn Avenue • Turtle Creek, PA 15145

Phone: 412-829-7112 • Fax: 412-829-4363 • Website: www.hscc-mvpc.org



AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

United Way of Allegheny County

A copy of the official registration and financial information of the Human Service Center Corp. can be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



Services at the Human Services Center

The Westinghouse Valley Human Services Center, located at 519 Penn Avenue in Turtle Creek, provides a variety of services to residents in eastern Allegheny County communities and the Westinghouse/Turtle Creek Valley.

- **The Braddock Carnegie Library – Turtle Creek Extension** is open during on Tuesdays from 9:00am – 5:00pm and on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11:30am – 5:00pm. Call Rose at 412-829-7112 for more information.
- **Rental Assistance:** The Urban League has monies available for individuals who are at least two months behind in their rent and possess a magistrate's notice, or those who need first month's rent and security deposit. Call Lynn at 412-829-7112.
- **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA):** AA has a support group at the Center every Friday at 7:00pm and Saturday at 10:30am. Call 412-824-1958.
- **Domestic Abuse Counseling Center (DACC):** DACC is at the Center every Wednesday from 6:00pm - 9:00pm. Call 412-678-1055.
- **Free Notary Service:** State Representative Paul Costa's office can notarize documents such as affidavits (no title work) on Monday through Friday from 9:00am – 4:00pm.
- **Parents of Murdered Children (POMC):** POMC has a support group at the Center the first Saturday of every month at 10:00am. For more information, call Cindy at 724-733-4084, or just show up.
- **The Youth Learning In a Fun Environment (YLIFE) After-School Program** is accepting applications. Youth LIFE serves 300 youth in first through fifth grade. For more information, contact Leah at 412-829-7112.
- **The Emerging Leaders Program (ELP)** is a workforce development program for youth ages 14 to 18 living in the Woodland Hills, East Allegheny, Duquesne, and Clairton School Districts. ELP is currently accepting applications. For more information, contact Leah at 412-829-7112.

Tenant agencies at the Center include:

- Allegheny County Health Dept. – W.I.C. Program** – 412-823-1333
- Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Community School East** – 412-464-4043
- Braddock Carnegie Library – Turtle Creek Extension** – 412-829-7112
- Community Outreach Services** – 412-829-7112
- Eastern Area Adult Services** – 412-824-6880
- Human Services Center Corporation** – 412-829-7112
- Learn “N” Play Development Center** – 412-829-0240
- Mon Valley Providers Council** – 412-829-7112
- PA State Representative Paul Costa** – 412-824-3400
- Pantry Network of Eastern Suburbs** – 412-824-0006
- Turtle Creek Valley Mental Health/Mental Retardation** –
 - Adult Programs – 412-824-8510
 - Alternatives – 412-824-9300
 - Children, Adolescents and Families – 412-349-0632
 - Employment Services – 412-824-8510
 - Mobile Medication Team – 412-824-8510
 - Psychiatric and Social Rehabilitation – 412-461-4100
- Overstock Optical** - 724-640-3863

About MVPC

Our Mission: The Mon Valley Providers Council, in collaboration with individuals, families, and groups in the Mon Valley communities, will define and address mutual issues and needs. Building upon the providers and communities, the Mon Valley Providers Council will promote agendas and develop resources for collective action.

Who We Are: The Mon Valley Providers Council (MVPC), a program of the Human Services Center, is an alliance of human service and related organizations, which are based in or have a substantial service presence in the Mon Valley. The MVPC serves as a formal network for information and resource exchange among human service providers in the Mon Valley. It involves its member organizations in Working Groups, which address crucial issues in the Mon Valley in the areas of Employment and Training, Health, Housing, and Youth. These four Working Groups involve the participation of 65 dues paying members and over 250 staff members of those organizations. Through these standing Working Groups, the Providers Council promotes cooperation, coordination, and collaboration among its member and participating organizations in an effort to fill gaps in human services in the Mon Valley communities.

Staff: The MVPC is staffed through the Human Services Center. Current MVPC staff are:

David Coplan, Director
Ruth Smith, Collaborative Programs Director
Linda Railing, Program Associate
 Administrative support is provided by receptionist **Lynn Andelmo**.

MVPC Leadership

The Steering Committee:

Nancy Osterhus, Chairperson, *Allegheny County Health Department*

Kevin Perkey, Vice Chair Person, *3 Rivers Connect*

Michele Atkins, *Heritage Community Initiatives*

Charles Bostaph, *CCAC Boyce*

Janet Carroll, *Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR*

Tina Doose, *Fair Housing Center of Greater Pittsburgh*

Noreen Fredrick, *Mon Yough Community Services*

Tiffanee Heywood, *Goodwill*

Donna Little, *Rainbow Kitchen*

Michele Baich Matuch, *UPMC McKeesport/McKeesport Hospital Foundation*

Tony Mitchell, *Penn State Greater Allegheny*

Charlene Newkirk, *CCAC South*

Darla Poole, *Auberle*

Jim Spindler, *UPMC McKeesport*

Lynn Tatala, *Project ELECT*

Dick Wallace, *Ex-Officio Member*

Laura Zinski, *Mon Valley Initiative*

Communities served by MVPC

- Braddock
- Braddock Hills
- Chalfant
- Clairton
- Dravosburg
- Duquesne
- East McKeesport
- East Pittsburgh
- Elizabeth Borough
- Elizabeth Township
- Forest Hills
- Forward Township
- Glassport
- Homestead
- Jefferson Hills
- Liberty
- Lincoln
- McKeesport
- Monroeville
- Munhall
- North Braddock
- North Versailles
- Pitcairn
- Port Vue
- Rankin
- South Versailles
- Swissvale
- Turtle Creek
- Versailles
- Wall
- West Elizabeth
- West Homestead
- West Mifflin
- Whitaker
- White Oak
- Wilkins
- Wilmerding



MVPC Strategic Priorities for 2012 Continued

Continued from Page 1

8. The Working Group on Housing will **advocate for affordable housing resources for the Mon Valley** through County and State provider associations will help to increase the availability.

9. **Life skills** is a broad topic for youth that is pursued by many of the agencies in the MVPC. The Working Group on Youth will **convene these agencies to discuss their respective curriculums and work to determine if there is a best practice curriculum to be pursued.**

10. **HIV/AIDS and STDs** have the highest prevalence in the Mon Valley region. The MVPC immediately following the forum surveyed the member agencies to determine if this is a gap that there is ample interest in pursuing and multiple agencies expressed their commitment to attend an initial meeting for collective action. One innovative suggestion was to examine how we can partner with Google to design programs (ex. Phone apps on HIV/Sexual issues, drugs and alcohol) that are creative and engaging? We need to think out of the box in order to reach our youth.

McKeesport Collaborative

Are you looking for assistance with achieving self-sufficiency for you and your family? Are you a woman whose life has been affected in some way by substance abuse?

The McKeesport Collaborative is dedicated to providing services and referrals for women and their children affected by substance abuse. Referrals for services include the following:

- Housing
- Education
- Employment/Training
- Counseling/Therapy
- Health care
- Additional needs identified by the women

For additional information, please call 412-829-7112, or email rsmith@hsc-mvpc.org.

The McKeesport Collaborative is financed in part by a grant provided by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development.

FREE Work Force Development Program for Teens

The Emerging Leaders Program (ELP), a program of the Human Services Center, is currently accepting applications for the 2011-2012 school year.

ELP is available to low-income high school students who attend Clairton, East Allegheny, or Woodland Hills High Schools. Preference is given to seniors, followed by juniors. Participants are afforded the opportunity to prepare for their future, develop their work competencies, explore thousands of careers through hands-on experiences, attend field trips, improve their study skills, meet new people, and EARN MONEY!

In previous years, participants attended field trips to local colleges and training centers, a youth workforce development conference, a science career conference at the Carnegie Science Center, and local businesses to name a few.

ELP holds weekly sessions during the day at the students' schools to allow students to participate without taking away from any extra-curricular activities. If you or someone you know may be interested call 412-829-7112 for more information or to obtain an application.

2012 MVPC Membership Listing:

3 Rivers Connect
ACTION Housing
Allegheny County Health Department
Allegheny Intermediate Unit Community School East
Allegheny Intermediate Unit Head Starts
Allegheny Intermediate Unit Project ELECT
Auberle
Center Avenue UMC Circles Initiative
Center for Victims of Violence and Crime
Century Heritage Federal Credit Union
Children's Hospital Family Care Connection – Braddock/Rankin
Children's Hospital Family Care Connection –

Turtle Creek
Citizens to Abolish Domestic Apartheid
Clairton Family Center
CCAC – Boyce Campus
CCAC – South Campus
Duquesne Family Center
Duquesne Family Support Center
East Allegheny Family Center
Educational Opportunity Centers of Southwestern PA
Fair Housing Partnership of Greater Pittsburgh
Family Services of Western PA
Forbes Family Practice
Gateway Rehab
Goodwill of SW Pennsylvania
Greater Pittsburgh

Community Food Bank
Gwen's Girls
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh
Heritage Community Initiatives
Highlands Family Center
Holy Family Institute
Human Services Center
Juvenile Court – Mon Yough & Eastern District
Latino Family Center
Life's Work of Western Pennsylvania
Lincoln Park Family Center
McKeesport Collaborative
McKeesport Family Center
McKeesport First Steps Parenting Program
McKeesport Hospital Foundation

Mon Valley Initiative
Mon Yough Area Chamber of Commerce
Mon Yough Community Services, Inc.
NeighborWorks of Western PA
Pantry Network of Eastern Suburbs
Penn State – Greater Allegheny
PA CareerLink Allegheny East
Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group
Rainbow Kitchen
Community Services
Rankin Christian Center
Sisters Place, Inc.
State Senator James Brewster
State Senator Jay Costa
Steel Center AVTS Adult

Ed Programs
Steel Valley Family Center
Sto-Rox Family Center
The Alliance for Infants and Toddlers
The Early Learning Institute
Touching Families
Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments
Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR
University of Pittsburgh – School of Social Work
UPMC McKeesport
UPMC Primary Care Center
Turtle Creek
Wilkinsburg Family Center
Womansplace
YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh Wilmerding Branch



Rainbow Kitchen Community Services Personal Paths Case Management Program

Are you ready to take charge of your life? Are you looking for employment? Would you like to secure better employment? Do you need training or education to obtain employment? Would you like support, guidance and referrals to help you meet your goals?

If you want to take charge of your life, and are ready to make changes for the better to become more self-sufficient but are not sure how to do it, the Personal Paths Program may be exactly what you need.

A case manager will meet with you at least twice a month to help you set goals, offering

the support, guidance and referrals needed to achieve your goals such as:

- Securing or Finding Better Employment
- Training/Education
- Budgeting
- Finding Affordable Housing
- Home Ownership
- Having Food in Your Home
- Child Care
- Applying for Social Security, Medical, Food Stamps and Cash
- Help with Health Care and Prescriptions
- Drug/Alcohol Issues
- Mental Health Issues
- Family Concerns
- Parenting Issues

To join with the Personal Paths Program you need to be looking

for employment/better employment or education for employment, live in Allegheny County (outside of the City of Pittsburgh) and be at or below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level (a household of one can have income up to \$13,538, a household of one-\$18,213).

If you have questions or would like more information about the Personal Paths Program contact: Renee Conte at (412) 464-1892 or email renee.conte@rainbowkitchen.org.

This program is funded in part by a grant provided by the PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development.

MYCS Has New Phone Number

In order to make services more available to the community, Mon Yough Community Services announces a new phone number beginning on January 1, 2012.

412-675-MYCS (6927)

Mon Yough Community Services provides the following services:

- outpatient mental health services for children and adolescents,
- outpatient mental health services for adults,
- drug and alcohol treatment services for adults and adolescents,

- service coordination,
- psychiatric rehabilitation services,
- social rehabilitation services,
- supportive employment,
- supportive housing,
- outreach services,
- student assistance, and
- prevention services.

Mondays – Thursdays 8 am to 5 pm and Fridays 7:30 am to 3:30 pm.

At any other time, continue to use the Re:solve Crisis Network at 1-888-7-YOU CAN / 1-888-796-8226. It is available 24 hours a day to the entire county.

If you or someone you know needs mental health services, you may get more information by calling our new number – 412-675-MYCS or you may visit our website at www.mycs.org.

MYCS also has a walk-in Crisis Center in McKeesport at 331 Shaw Avenue, 1st Floor. The Crisis Center is open:

Clients who already work with MYCS should continue to use their direct department phone numbers.

Food Options For You

The MVPC Working Group on Health wants to ensure people have access to the many Food Assistance Programs provided around the Valley. Below is a list of agencies and numbers to call:

- Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, 412-460-FOOD (3663) ext. 456—Offers many types of food assistance.
- Hunger Services Network of the Urban League of Pittsburgh, 412-325-0749—Call to be referred to a food pantry in your neighborhood.
- Child and Adult Care Food Program, (CACFP) through The YMCA, 412-323-1922—Will sponsor both adult and child food assistance.
- Child and Adult Care Feeding Program, 412-350-2759—Currently assists with meals for children attending after school programs.
- Meals for Older Adults, 412-460-3663—Persons 60 years of age and older and those who are unable to prepare meals or shop for themselves can get assistance with meals.
- Free and Reduced School Meals—Applications are available at your child's school.
- Rainbow Kitchen Community Services, 412-464-1892—Serves children from low income families in after-school programs.
- Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (also called Food Stamps)—You can apply for Food Stamp assistance at any of the 3 following agencies:
 - Just Harvest, 412-431-8963
 - Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, 866-395-3663
 - Allegheny County assistance Office Headquarters, 412-565-2146
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), 412-350-5801—A supplemental nutrition program for pregnant women, infants and children up to 5 years of age who meet certain criteria.

Helpful Hints: When calling or walking in to receive services, please have photo ID, social Security card, verification of residence (such as an electric or gas bill) and statement of income (such as pay stubs) on hand.

CCAC South Job Fair



Job Fair

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

SOUTH CAMPUS

“B” Building, 4th Floor Commons

Take advantage of employers

who are hiring for jobs right now in....

Accounting • Business • Engineering • IT

Dress Professionally • Bring Resumes

For more information call 412-469-6214
For directions, go to: www.ccac.edu





2011 MVPC Year in Review

Outcomes and Achievements

1,392 people were screened for osteoporosis.

55 community sites were utilized to conduct the osteoporosis screenings, which were conducted by MVPC member agencies, MVPC staff, and volunteers who were trained to use the machines.

191 people were screened for vision throughout the Mon Valley.

9 people were afforded the opportunity for a free eye exam and free glasses.

30 people attended the Free Housing Informational Seminar on October 25th and rated the presenters as "Excellent."

37 decision makers attended the Mon Valley Providers Councils Synergy Forum.

100+ people attended the Annual Meeting with a reactionary panel including: Kevin L. Jenkins, Senior Program Officer & Director of Community Initiatives, The Pittsburgh Foundation; Lisa M. Kuzma, Senior Program Officer, Richard King Mellon Foundation; and Robert A. Kennedy is Vice President of Government Relations, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC).

1,200+ copies of the MVPC Membership were Directories distributed were distributed to a variety of agency staff and consumers in a month's time period.

75 people attended the Annual "How to Get a Job" Seminar at Penn State Allegheny rating the event "Excellent" and "Extremely Helpful" with the participants indicating that they wish the event were longer.

98 people were given free flu shots on October 25th at the Human Services Center in Turtle Creek. These shots were administered by the Eastern Pre-hospital Services, which were provided by a community-to-community initiative of the Mon River Fleet, PA Department of Health, State Health Improvement plan partnerships, and local emergency medical services for residents 18 years of age or older.

20 individuals attended the MVPC Voter Celebration on Wednesday, May 18th and Wednesday, November 9.

3 individuals attended a financial literacy workshop at the Human Service Center which was presented by NeighborWorks.

30 people attended a brainstorming session sponsored by the MVPC Employment and Training Group, "Funding Cuts: Who is Left Standing?"

50 people attended the, "How To Ask the Difficult Questions" seminar sponsored by the MVPC Working Group on Health.

100 + people attended the 1st Annual Community Resource Fair in Turtle Creek.

40 Humans service agencies attended the Community Resource Fair:

- Health Screenings were provided by:
 - Family Care Connections,
 - Mon Valley Providers Council, and
 - UPMC McKeesport.
- 75+ people received information on immunization records, status and awareness.
- 50 people interacted with staff from Eastern Area Adult Services:
 - 7 received in home care information and
 - 10 received senior resources.
- 50-60 people received information on the Braddock Carnegie Library:
 - 25 browsed through the extensive array of books.
- 40 people received screenings from UPMC of McKeesport/MVPC:
 - 21 Blood Pressure screenings,
 - 21 Pulse Oximetry screenings, and
 - 19 Bone Density screenings.
- 27 people interacted with the Allegheny Health and Rehab Center exhibit:
 - 15 of those received chair massages and 4 scheduled complimentary consultations.
- 20 people received information from the Gresock & Morgante Chiropractors and received complimentary chair massages.
- 20 people availed themselves of Family Savings Program information.
- 20 people also received information on Weatherization techniques.
- 21 people interacted with the Port Authority exhibitors:
 - 1 person received a 65 plus bus pass application and
 - 6 people received information on bus schedules.
- 24 people interacted with social services representatives:
 - 2 persons received information on youth/transition programs referral information and
 - 4 persons received information on call center/customer service training referral information.
- 30 people visited the Pittsburgh Food Bank table.
- 15-20 people were given information on important social services.
- 60 people received information from Mon Yough Community Services.
- 37 people were able to interact with Animal Friends, Sharyn, and her beautiful dog.
- 42 people received information for employment.
- Several children were able to sew their own dolls, courtesy of Diane Maquire.
- 76 children decorated cupcakes courtesy of Rainbow Kitchen.



Heritage Community Initiatives is Here to Help

At Heritage, they believe that everyone in the Mon Valley region should have what they need to succeed. At Heritage, they know that having the ability to find good education for children, having a ride to work and being trained for jobs are real needs. That is why Heritage wants to work with all who could benefit from their programs.

Heritage 4 Kids Education Program (4 Kids)

The education of children is at the center of Heritage's mission. At 4 Kids, they provide an early learning program, a Pre-K counts program and afterschool program for children age infant to 8th grade. In their early learning programs, they teach children the skills that they need to succeed when they enter school. In our after school programs, they provide

homework help and enrichment opportunities. If you would like to learn more about these programs please call 412-351-0535 and ask for Jodi Kelley.

Heritage WorkLink Van Service (WorkLink)

Heritage wants to help you get to work and job related activities. At Heritage, a fixed route transportation service is run. The vans go into areas that are sometimes hard to reach to make sure that people can get to work or to a bus route close by. The service currently runs in parts of Turtle Creek, East Pittsburgh, North Versailles, McKeesport, Port View, Glassport, Clairton, and Jefferson. There is no charge to use the van service. You must be going to work, job training, education, childcare, volunteering or job searching/interviews

to qualify. If you would like to learn more, please call 412-351-0535 and ask for Sarah Morgan.

Heritage MOVE-IT Job Training (MOVE-IT)

Heritage currently provides training in the green job field through our MOVE-IT (Mon Valley Energy Innovation Training) program. Through MOVE-IT, Heritage provides training and support services to assist in career building. The trainees are qualified for many jobs in the green industry and are looking for work in the Mon Valley region. If you are interested in learning more about the program or hiring our graduates please call 412-351-0535 and ask for Brenda Henry.

To learn more about programs, volunteering or donating call 412-351-0535 and ask for Becky Flaherty.

Redefining Poverty Actually Makes it Worse

The federal system for determining the definition of poverty has been around since the 50's. The 2011 federal poverty level is \$22,350 for a family of four. Latest figures from the US Census, released last September, showed 46.6 million Americans living at or below the federal poverty level, a historic number.

Over the years some have criticized the poverty calculation for being too low, failing to stay current with the true cost of living. Other critics note that the levels do not count additional "income" from sources like Food Stamps, welfare, housing subsidies and other public assistance, and if they did, far fewer people would be classified as living in poverty.

So in November, the Census rolled out a new formula, called the Supplemental Poverty Measure, that attempted to rectify some of the shortcomings of the old system. This new snapshot of poverty takes public assistance into account and adds it to the income total. It also considers the widely varying cost of living in different areas of the country. Finally, it includes a realistic assessment of typical family expenses, like housing, daycare, healthcare and food.

It turns out that even when public assistance is added to the income totals, the number of people living in poverty increases. Under the new calculation the number is 49.1 million.

Food, daycare, housing, tuition and healthcare costs are all seriously beating inflation and more than compensating for whatever public assistance funds were added to the totals. Stagnant wages, unemployment and loss of asset value (like housing equity) also lower the bottom line.

Programs like Food Stamps were created to help keep people out of poverty, and research shows they do just that. No matter how poverty is measured, it's clear that at least one out of every six Americans is having a hard time making ends meet.

Human Services Center Welcomes New Agency: OVERSTOCK OPTICAL

Overstock Optical - OPEN in FEBRUARY

"We have the **lowest** complete eyeglass prices in Pittsburgh!"

Hours of Operation:

Tuesday - 9:30am - 5:00pm
 Wednesday - 12:00pm - 7:00pm
 Thursday - 9:30am - 5:00pm
 Friday - 9:30am - 5:00pm
 Saturday - 10:00am - 2:00pm
 Sunday - Closed
 Monday - Closed

**Hundreds
 of Eyeglass
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 Starting
 at \$15.99**



OVERSTOCK OPTICAL

724-640-3863

Student Assistance Training Series



HOPE HAS A HOME®

1-800-472-1177 | gatewayrehab.org | Nationally Renowned Addiction Treatment

DATE & TIME:

Jan. 25, 26, Feb. 7, 8, 2012
 All classes from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

(PARTICIPANTS MUST
 ATTEND ALL FOUR DAYS)

LOCATION:

Gateway Rehab - Corporate Headquarters
 311 ROUSER ROAD, MOON TWP., PA 15108

TOPIC:

Student Assistance Program (SAP) Training
 Competency-based training.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Administrators, teachers, school counselors, nurses, school resource officers, school probation officers, social workers, agency liasons.

CREDITS OFFERED:

Act 48, social work and nursing credits available.

REGISTRATION:

Fee is \$350 per person.
 Register on-line at <http://www.gatewayrehab.org/conferences-trainings>
 For questions call Alice Watson (ext. 1193) or Debbie Whiteford (ext. 2504), 412-604-8900. School personnel – please contact your superintendent for PDE funding. Regarding questions on PDE funding, contact Rene Urick, 724-785-6851, c-rurick@state.pa.us.

TRAINERS:

deRicci Horwatt, Executive Director, and
 Sandy Conaway, Senior Prevention Specialist
 Gateway Vision
 Gateway Rehab School-Based Prevention,
 Commonwealth-Approved Trainers.





Housing Seminar a Success!

The annual MVPC Housing Seminar was held at Rainbow Kitchen in Homestead on October 25, 2011.

A total of thirty Mon Valley providers, case managers and members of the general public attended the event.

A panel of five professionals from the human service field were invited to share their knowledge about housing issues.

Topics ranged from how low-income people can find and use resources for housing, to understanding community differences. Also discussed were issues of how, when and where to get energy assistance, budgeting for housing, and how to be a prepared renter.

After a delicious meal, which was prepared by Rainbow Kitchen's cook, Jim Harvey, each panelist

2011 MVPC Annual Breakfast

On November 4, 2011, close to one hundred Mon Valley Provider Council (MVPC) members and guests attended the annual breakfast at Palmieri's Restaurant in Turtle Creek. The breakfast was in follow-up to the 2010 Mon Valley Matter's meeting and featured a reaction panel.

The panel was made up of three well known funders from the Pittsburgh region: Kevin Jenkins, Senior Program Officer and Director of Community Initiatives with the Pittsburgh Foundation; Lisa Kuzma, Senior Program Officer with the Richard King Mellon Foundation; and Robert A. Kennedy, Vice

addressed the audience.

The panelists included Renee Conte from Rainbow Kitchen, who addressed low-income housing and how to find and use resources; Tina Doose, the Executive Director of the Fair Housing Partnership of Greater Pittsburgh, who answered concerns about fair housing practices and understanding the community; Karen Clunas, from Peoples Natural Gas Company, who gave information on energy assistance that is available through utility companies like Peoples Gas and others; Courtney George, the Education Specialist from NeighborWorks of Western Pennsylvania, who provided budgeting tips to help those looking to rent and/or own; and Ashley Newhouse-Mancine, the Regional Housing Coordinator for Allegheny Department of Human Services, who

President of Government Relations for the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC).

The panelists were asked to speak about issues concerning transportation, job skills/training, credit worthiness, drugs and alcohol, hunger, life skills, and communicable diseases.

These were areas the Mon Valley community members and MVPC's four Working Groups—Employment & Training, Health, Housing, and Youth—found to be concerns in and around the Mon Valley.

MVPC members welcomed the chance to

gave relevant, updated information on renting and/or buying homes. There was a question and answer session immediately following.

Denise Daugherty, Family Development Specialist and Youth Development Associate with McKeesport Collaborative and the Human Services Center Corporation said, "The information I obtained will be extremely valuable to the population we serve at HSCC."

Because of the interest of those who attended, the skills of the panelists and the generosity of Rainbow Kitchen, this Housing Seminar was a huge success! Linda Railing, MVPC Program Associate, stated, "A big thanks really goes out to all those who participated. MVPC's Working Group on Housing is already looking forward to next year's seminar!"

hear the funder's views and insights, and were given time to have their questions answered after the panelists spoke.

The MVPC Working Groups are actively taking steps to address the areas.

Many thanks to Kevin Jenkins, Lisa Kuzma and Robert Kennedy for their valuable information, to Dave Coplan and Nancy Osterhus for opening the meeting and introducing the panelists, and finally, to all those who participated and/or were present during the 2011 Mon Valley Provider Council's annual breakfast meeting.



Seminar Attendees Listened to Panelists and Discussed Various Topics



HSCC VITA Site Announces Dates

The Human Services Center Corporation (HSCC) is pleased to announce that dates have been set for the upcoming tax season.

HSCC offers a free tax preparation site to individuals who are on a limited or fixed income, or who are older adults, elderly, home-confined, or non-English speaking taxpayers.

This year's free tax preparation will begin on Monday, February 6, 2012, and run through Tuesday, April 10, 2012. The site will be open on Mondays from 12:00pm to 7:00pm and Tuesdays from 3:00pm to 7:00pm. The site will be closed on Monday, February 20, 2012, to observe the federal holiday, President's Day.

To register for an appointment, please call 412-829-7112 beginning Tuesday, January 17th and no earlier. HSCC's site is by appointment only, with no walk-ins or drop-offs.

If you have any questions regarding the site, please call 412-829-7112.

Apply Before Spaces Fill Up for FREE After-School Program

The Youth LIFE After-School Program, of the Human Services Center Corporation (HSCC), provides up to 300 first through fifth graders residing in the Woodland Hills School District with a safe and educational place to spend their weekday afternoons and evenings.

Through the implementation of age and skill appropriate tutorial

classes, a computer-based curriculum to help improve PSSA scores, educational seminars, self-improvement classes, field trips (HSCC site only), and recreational activities, Youth LIFE students are afforded opportunities that they otherwise would have been unable to experience.

We have several after-school sites that

are housed within the Woodland Hills School District's elementary schools as well as at the Human Services Center Corporation in Turtle Creek.

The Youth LIFE Program is provided for FREE to all participants!

For more information or to obtain an application please call 412-829-7112.

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\$2,500 and above

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 Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield
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 PA Department of Economic Development
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 UPMC Health Plan
 Verizon
 Westinghouse Electric
 YouthWorks, Inc.

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Christine and Dave Coplan
 Good Sports, Inc.

Up to \$999 Donor List (Including Pittsburgh Gives and United Way Contributor Choice Donors)

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