

The Mon Valley Providers Council

Presents

The Communicator

OCTOBER 2015

The Communicator is the official newsletter of the Mon Valley Providers Council (MVPC), an alliance of over 75 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.

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Join Us for HSCC's 5th Annual Community Resource Fair!

The Human Services Center is holding a free Community Resource Fair on Thursday, October 22, 2015 from 5PM to 7PM at 519 Penn Avenue in Turtle Creek. Come enjoy free ice cream and enter to win many prizes! Prizes include Pitt Football tickets, gift cards, cash cards and much more. There will also be a variety of activities for children and families.

Mixed in with all the fun and games will be over thirty local organizations and businesses that offer services to the community. Representatives from these organizations will be on hand to provide information and answer questions about the services they offer. If you are interested in a particular organization, many of them will be able to assess if you qualify

for their services at the Fair. The organizations taking part in the Fair offer services for many people, including job training and education, housing, nutrition, credit and financial counseling, as well as physical and mental health services.

Screenings for osteoporosis, and vision will also be available, as well as free flu shots. This is a completely free event and everyone is invited! The HSCC looks forward to seeing you at the Human Services Center at 519 Penn Avenue in Turtle Creek on Thursday, October 22, from 5PM-7PM.

For more information call 412-829-7112 or email Darrah Bird at dbird@hscc-mvpc.org.



A 2014 Community Resource Fair attendee gets information and plays a game from Adagio Health

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



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 on Tues, Wed, and Thurs from 10:00am – 3:00pm. Call 412-829-7112.
- **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 412-829-7112.
- **Health Insurance (Affordable Care Act), Medicaid, Food Stamps (SNAP), Prescription Assistance, and FAFSA:** YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh will assist individuals with signing up for many services. Call 412-829-7112 to schedule an appointment.
- **Property Tax/Rent Rebate Applications, PACE/PACENET, ACCESS applications, Senior Bus Pass Applications, PennDOT forms and assistance with state related issues:** State Senator Jim Brewster's office can complete state related forms and provide assistance on the first Wednesday of each month from 1:00pm – 4:00pm. Call 412-829-7112 for more information.
- **Turtle Creek Development Corporation** meets on the 4th Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at the Human Services Center (519 Penn Avenue). Call 412-464-4000.
- **Turtle Creek Valley Historical Society:** The Society meets on the second Saturday of the month. Call 412-816-1686.
- **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA):** AA has a support group at the Center every Friday at 7:00pm. Call 412-824-1958.
- **Overeaters Anonymous (OA):** OA has a support group at the Center every Monday at 6:30pm. Call 412-829-7112.
- **The Youth Learning In a Fun Environment (Youth LIFE) After-School Program** is accepting applications. Youth LIFE serves 100 youth in first through fifth grade. For more information, contact 412-829-7112.
- **The Emerging Leaders Program (ELP)** is a workforce development program for high school seniors living in the Woodland Hills, East Allegheny and McKeesport School Districts. ELP is currently accepting applications. For more information, contact 412-829-7112.
- **The McKeesport Collaborative** helps women seeking to achieve self-sufficiency through goals of employment and/or education by providing referrals and guidance. For more information, call 412-829-7112.

Tenant agencies at the Center include:

- Adagio Health – 724-224-1530
- 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
- Eastern Area Adult Services – 412-824-6880
- Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council – 412-969-8486
- Human Services Center Corporation – 412-829-7112
- Learn “N” Play Development Center – 412-829-0240
- Mon Valley Providers Council – 412-829-7112
- Pantry Network of Eastern Suburbs – 412-824-0006
- Turtle Creek Valley
 - Adult Programs – 412-824-8510
 - Children, Adolescents and Families – 412-349-0632
 - Mobile Medication Team – 412-824-8510
 - Psychiatric and Social Rehabilitation – 412-461-4100

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. The MVPC 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 69 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
Mallory Clark, Program Associate

MVPC Leadership

The Steering Committee:

- Laura Zinski**, Chairperson, *Mon Valley Initiative*
- Noreen Fredrick**, Vice Chairperson, *Mon Yough Community Services*
- Tiffanee Heywood**, *Goodwill*
- Jamie Hightower-Poindexter**, *CCAC Boyce*
- Elli Latterman**, *McKeesport Hospital Foundation*
- Holly Livingston**, *Gateway Rehab*
- Paula McWilliams**, *Heritage Community Initiatives*
- Tony Mitchell**, *Penn State Greater Allegheny*
- Charlene Newkirk**, *CCAC South*
- Nancy Osterhus**, Ex-Officio Member
- James Phillips**, *Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR*
- Darla Poole**, *Auberle*
- Lisa Scales**, *Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank*
- Lynn Tatala**, *Project ELECT*
- Dick Wallace**, Ex-Officio Member

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



Human Services Center Welcomes New Staff

The Human Services Center Corporation (HSCC) is pleased to announce the addition of four new staff members and five program assistants! The HSCC has traditionally been an agency with high performing leadership and staff – it is a previous recipient of the Alfred J. Wishart, Jr. Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Management, as presented by the Forbes Funds.

The addition of new staff was largely started by the expansion of the Emerging Leaders Program (ELP), a workforce development and college readiness program for seniors in high school. ELP expanded by 30% and now serves 130 students attending East Allegheny, McKeesport Area, West Mifflin, and Woodland Hills Area high schools. The program is incorporated into the students' school

day – participants attend a weekly session where they are instructed in a curriculum specifically created for seniors to prepare them for success after high school. In addition, staff provide intensive one-on-one case management to each student.

New youth programs staff include Mallory Clark, MSW, who joined the HSCC in 2014 as a program assistant. In April of 2015, she joined the full-time staff team. The HSCC was been pleased to offer her the Youth Programs Assistant Director position in September. She is joined by Vanessa Dunn, Andrew Yelanich, and Luke Zappa, who joined the HSCC's staff in July, August, and September as Youth Development Associates, working in the Emerging Leaders Program. Each comes with a high level of experience working with

youth and teens.

Additional new staff include Claire Tomko, who has joined the HSCC team as the new Community Outreach and Office Manager and brings a wealth of knowledge in resources in Allegheny County.

The HSCC also is excited to welcome five program assistants, who are student interns working towards undergraduate or graduate degrees. All five program assistants are current University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work students.

Darrah Bird began her placement in April and has been working primarily with the Mon Valley Providers Council (MVPC) and the McKeesport Collaborative. Darrah manages the monthly meetings with the MVPC, as well as special events and programs for both the MVPC

and the McKeesport Collaborative.

Eitan Corenblum began his placement in August and is doing extensive research on trends in the Mon Valley, specifically in Turtle Creek, and with those individuals who visit the HSCC facilities. Beginning in October, he will be working primarily on the free tax program offered by the HSCC.

Kelly Didomenico began at the HSCC in September and is working with the Emerging Leaders Program to assist the Youth Development Associates and to stay in contact with graduated participants. Kelly is also a member of the HSCC's part-time staff, working in the Youth LIFE After-School Program.

Alyssa Nix began at the HSCC in the summer of 2015, as a part-time staff in the KOOL Summer Program. She continues

to work with first through fifth graders in the Youth LIFE After-School Program, specifically in the Promoting Alternative THinking Strategies (PATHS) curriculum, a social and emotional, evidence-based program.

Vicki Fetterman began her placement in October and is working in the McKeesport Collaborative program, assisting the Family Development Specialist with case management for the women enrolled in that program.

The HSCC is very pleased to welcome all new staff members and program assistants to it's family. They join Dave Coplan, Leah O'Reilly, Arwen Davis, Denise Daugherty, Jessica Merchant, and Bob Mitnik, Debbie Davenport, Tyrone Johnson, Judy Meyers, Kathy Simon, Ursula Campbell-Escalante, Fran Wigand, and Joan Polesnak.

For contact information for the HSCC staff mean, please visit hsc-mvpc.org or call 412-829-7112.



HSCC Staff Team

2015 MVPC Membership Listing:

ACTION Housing	CCAC – Boyce Campus	Heritage Community	Mon Valley Circles	Sto-Rox Family Center
Allegheny County Health	CCAC – South Campus	Initiatives	Initiative	The Center for Women
Department	Discovery House	Highlands Family Center	Mon Valley Initiative	The Early Learning
Allegheny Family Network	Duquesne Family Center	Holy Family Institute	Mon Yough Area Chamber	Institute
AHN - Forbes Family	Duquesne Family Support	Human Services Center	of Commerce	Touching Families
Medicine	Center	Jefferson Regional	Mon Yough Community	Turtle Creek Valley MH/
Allegheny Intermediate	East Allegheny Family	Foundation	Services, Inc.	MR
Unit Community School	Center	Juvenile Court – Mon	NeighborWorks of	University of Pittsburgh –
East	Eastern Area Adult	Yough & Eastern District	Western PA	School of Social Work
Allegheny Intermediate	Services	Just Harvest	Pantry Network of Eastern	UPMC McKeesport
Unit Head Start	Family Resources	Latino Family Center	Suburbs	Urban League of Greater
Allegheny Intermediate	Family Services of	Life's Work of Western	PA CareerLink Allegheny	Pittsburgh Hunger
Unit Project ELECT	Western PA	Pennsylvania	East	Services
Auberle	Forbes Hospital	Lincoln Park Family	Penn State – Greater	Veterans Leadership
Center for Victims	Gateway Rehab	Center	Allegheny	Program
Century Heritage Federal	Goodwill of SW	Macedonia FACE, Inc.	Rainbow Kitchen	Wilksburg Family Center
Credit Union	Pennsylvania	McKeesport Collaborative	Community Services	YMCA of Greater
Children's Hospital Family	Greater Pittsburgh	McKeesport Family	Rankin Christian Center	Pittsburgh Wilmerding
Care Connection –	Community Food Bank	Center	State Senator James	Branch
Braddock/Rankin/Turtle	Greater Pittsburgh	McKeesport First Steps	Brewster	YWCA Greater Pittsburgh
Creek	Literacy Council	Parenting Program	State Senator Jay Costa	
Citizens to Abolish	Gwens Girls	McKeesport Hospital	Steel Center AVTS Adult	
Domestic Apartheid	Habitat for Humanity of	Foundation	Ed Programs	
Clairton Family Center	Greater Pittsburgh	MUSA	Steel Valley Family Center	



Rainbow Kitchen Personal Paths 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 to become more self-sufficient but are not sure how to do it, the Personal Paths Program may be exactly what you need. The Personal Paths 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 Food Stamps, Help with Health Care and Prescriptions, Drug/Alcohol Issues, Mental Health Issues, Family Concerns, and Parenting Issues.

To join the Personal Paths Program you need to have an employment based goal, live in

Allegheny County (outside the City of Pittsburgh) and be at or below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level (a household of 1 can have income up to \$14,588, a household of 2 -\$19,663).

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.

Live Well Allegheny Mon Valley Initiative

The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) is pleased to announce the start of Live Well Allegheny - Mon Valley Initiative (Live Well Mon Valley)!

There are three main goals of Live Well Mon Valley. First, to give people more access to healthy food at home and in their community (like corner stores and farmer's markets). Second, to make sure people have more places to be physically active where they live and work (like trails and sidewalks). Third, to provide more places in our communities that are smoke-free and tobacco-free (like parks). The overall goal is to improve the health of people living in the Mon Valley and to reduce the numbers of people who have a chronic disease.

The communities of the Mon Valley have higher rates of diseases like cancer, heart diseases and diabetes than other parts of Allegheny County. These are called chronic diseases. The way we eat and how active we are can lead to chronic disease. If we are healthier it can help to prevent a chronic disease. Do you know someone who struggles with a chronic disease?

ACHD has many partners of Live Well Mon Valley. The partners include Allegheny Health Network, the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, the Steel Valley Council of Governments, the Human Services Center Corporation, Tobacco Free Allegheny, Just Harvest, Allegheny County Economic

Development and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

Live Well Allegheny - Mon Valley Initiative is part of a larger program called Live Well Allegheny (LWA). LWA was started in January 2014 by County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and ACHD. ACHD is working with communities, schools and organizations in all parts of Allegheny County to get people to eat healthier, to be more physically active and to stop smoking.

A healthy community starts with you. Let's work together to for a healthier Mon Valley.

Do you have an idea for a project? To learn more about Live Well Allegheny please call ACHD at 412-247-7946. You can find more information at www.livewellallegheny.com.

World AIDS Day

Join the McKeesport Collaborative on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 for HIV/AIDS information and testing resources at 339 Fifth Avenue, McKeesport, PA.

A hot dog cookout will start at 11:30 and last until the food is gone! Free and open to the public, call 412-829-7112 for more information or e-mail dbird@hsc-mvpc.org!

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh Accepting Applications for Home in East McKeesport

Habitat for Humanity is accepting applications for a newly-acquired home in East McKeesport, to be sold to a low-income individual or family in need. This spacious three-story, three-bedroom home comes with both a garage and yard. The house is within short walking distance of East McKeesport's central business district.

With the help of volunteers and the selected program

participant, Habitat will renovate the property, which will then be sold at no profit using a 30-year, interest-free mortgage. The monthly payment for this home is estimated to be under \$550/month, including taxes and insurance. No down payment is required; the participant will only need to cover the cost of the first year of homeowner's insurance.

Individuals interested in applying, or seeking

additional information can contact Daniel Webb at 412-351-0512 x10 or DWebb@PittsburghHabitat.org

Habitat will be working on the rehabilitation of this home over the next year. Donations and volunteer support from community members is crucial. To make a donation or get involved, please visit www.pittsburghhabitat.org.



Habitat works with individuals and families with a gross (before tax) income between 35-60% of the median income for Allegheny County.



15th Annual HIV/AIDS Walk Raises Awareness

The 15th Annual Mon Valley HIV/AIDS Awareness Walk was held on October 3rd, 2015, and was a successful event of the McKeesport Collaborative HIV/AIDS Working Group. The yearly event was held in early October. Walkers and volunteers brought awareness, prevention and educational resources to the Mon Valley area.

The Walk involves members and agencies both in and outside of the Mon Valley area. Like last year, the Walk started and finished at Bethlehem Baptist Church in McKeesport.

The HIV/AIDS Working Group would like to acknowledge the support of all the sponsors and walkers for making the event a success! The Working Group also

would like to note that HIV/AIDS is a disease that should be talked about often and messages of prevention should be shared constantly to support the mission of the walk year round.

The Working Group will host a World AIDS Day event in December and a National Women and Girls HIV Awareness event in the coming year, both in McKeesport.



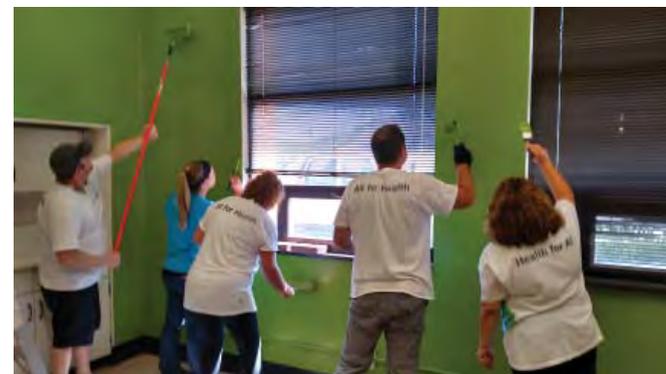
Boniface Igba gives a speech at the Annual HIV/AIDS Awareness Walk



Recent library renovations have resulted in an open, revitalized space

HSCC Grateful for Volunteers

The HSCC is very pleased to have the support of incredible organizations, who have given both talents and time to help improve and maintain our facilities, as well as assist in the Pantry. Thank you: Duquesne Light, Pittsburgh Corning, Highmark, and South University



BOOKS – DVDs – ARTWORK

Where can you go to sit quietly and relax; rent a book or a DVD; use a computer for research, or, even more exciting, rent a beautiful work of art to hang in your home? It is your library, the Turtle Creek Extension of the Braddock Carnegie Library!

This branch of the library has been here a number of years, and has recently been remodeled. It has been transformed into a very bright and welcoming space. There are sections for Children, Young Adults, Adult Fiction, and information

and technology books. If there is a book or DVD you want and it is not available at the branch at that time, it can be ordered and will arrive within a week. The Turtle Creek Extension has access to the entire Carnegie Library system! If there is a piece of art that you love, and would just like to see it hanging in your home for a few weeks, just tell the library staff – artwork can be checked out, too. There are so many exciting options in the library!

You are invited to visit and see all the changes

made and the amenities offered. Tell your family and friends about this wonderful neighborhood resource.

The library is located in the Westinghouse Human Service Center at 519 Penn Ave., Turtle Creek, on the first floor. The hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Copies can be made at \$.15 cents each. For more information about the library, please call 412-829-7112.



Change Today for a Healthier Future

The YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program is helping reduce the burden of chronic disease in communities across the nation. The program helps those at high risk for developing type 2 diabetes adopt and maintain healthy lifestyles by eating healthier, increasing physical activity and losing a modest amount of weight in order to reduce their chances of developing the disease. The program provides a supportive environment where participants work together in a small group led by a trained Lifestyle Coach in a classroom setting. It is delivered over a 12-month period, beginning with 16 weekly sessions followed by bi-weekly, then monthly maintenance. Participants receive session materials and are weighed in each week and asked to keep food and physical activity trackers.

Research by the National Institutes of Health has proven that programs like the YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program can reduce the number of cases of type 2 diabetes by 58%. The reduction is even greater, 71%, among adults aged 60 or older. The YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-led National Diabetes Prevention Program and is nationally supported by the Diabetes Prevention and Control Alliance. The YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program, available at the Wilmerding YMCA and surrounding areas, is open to new patients. To be eligible for the program, participants must be 18 or older, have a body mass index (BMI) of 25 or greater and have been diagnosed with prediabetes via one of three blood tests, had a previous diagnosis of

gestational diabetes or a qualifying risk score based on a combination of risk factors – family history, age, etc.

About 79 million adults in the United States have prediabetes. The Y is working to provide quality preventive programming to people who are at risk for developing type 2 diabetes. The goals of the YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program are to reduce individual weight by at least 7% and to build up to 150 minutes of physical activity per week for the purpose of diabetes risk reduction. These goals are achieved by focusing on behavioral modification around healthy eating and physical activity.

The YMCA is currently enrolling participants for classes in southwestern PA and are seeking referrals. Agencies that provide referrals will receive follow up on the

progress of individuals after sessions 8 and 16. Participants do not need to be members of the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh and non-member participants receive a temporary membership benefit as part of the program. There is a program fee; however, the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh is subsidizing a large portion of this fee and seeking third party reimbursement.

The next scheduled cohort is slated to begin on October 24th from 10-11am at the Wilmerding YMCA. For additional information, to enroll or to determine eligibility, please contact Gretchen North at 412-227-3820 or email diabetesprevention@ymcapgh.org.

Wizard of Oz Sing-Along Connects Seniors and People of All Ages

Open Your Heart to a Senior, in partnership with Bethesda United Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth Borough, will host a sing-a-long showing of The Wizard of Oz, 7:00 pm, October 23 in Grand Theater, 207 S 2nd Ave, Elizabeth, PA. Families, seniors and people of all ages are welcome to enjoy this classic movie with sing-a-long prompts and silly props

This event is FREE, but attendees are encouraged to RSVP to guarantee a seat. RSVP's are accepted via phone at 412-661-1670 ext 619 or by visiting our events calendar at <http://olderadults.fswp.org/calendar>

The Wizard of Oz, released in theaters in 1939, tells the story of a young woman on a journey to self-knowledge with the help of several friends she makes along the way. This timeless movie reminds us that we are all we need to make a difference in the world.

For more information about Open Your Heart to a Senior, contact Nichole Faina at fainan@fswp.org.

Open Your Heart to a Senior is a United Way-funded volunteer initiative that helps vulnerable seniors remain safe in their homes.

Open Your  to a Senior



Want to further your career or get started on a new career?

Contact Community College of Allegheny County Boyce Campus and speak to our Admissions Staff so we can help you get started on the career you want.

Classes begin on January 19, 2016.

For further information please contact:

Boyce Campus Admissions, 595 Beatty Road, Monroeville PA 15146
724-325-6614

Credit schedules can be viewed online at www.ccac.edu. Click on the Course Catalog link on the right side of the web page under Useful Links for Students. On this page you can view the Spring 2016 CCAC credit schedule in PDF file or be able to access CCAC Central e-Services for up to date online information.



Circles® Mon Valley is Recruiting for Participants and Volunteers!

Circles® is an organization that started 15 years ago as a way to help communities attack poverty. Circles® is a plan that brings together individuals and communities. The program is proven to help people get out of poverty through relationship building. The goal is to prepare families and communities to succeed. Circles® serves the Mon Valley at our locations in Turtle Creek and McKeesport.

The poverty rate in the United States has not improved in many years. If people continue

to expect government to solve poverty without the help of others, nothing will change. Working in communities around the country, each Circle® includes a family working to get out of poverty and middle- and upper-income "Allies" who partner with them. The Allies help the family to build positive networks and social support. Allies are asked only to donate their time and talents, not money.

The family working to get out of poverty is the Circle Leader®. Leaders set and work on goals that will put them on

a path out of poverty. The Circles® Campaign aims to empower people to work together to solve poverty in their communities.

For Circles® to succeed, it needs the support of the community. Circles® is recruiting for individuals and families who wish to get out of poverty! Volunteers who are willing to help are the heart of the work. and Circles® is always in need! Anyone who is interested in learning more about how to join may call 412-465-0840 or email circlesmonvalley@gmail.com.



Human Services Center Sets Tax Site Dates

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

The HSCC offers a free tax preparation site to individuals who are on a limited or fixed income. To qualify for this site, individuals must make less than \$25,000 and families less than \$45,000.

This year's free tax preparation will begin on Tuesday, January 19, 2016, and run through Friday, April 15, 2016. The site will be open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 12:00pm to 8:00pm. In addition to the HSCC's tax site in Turtle Creek, two day tax clinics are also offered in McKeesport, Duquesne, Homestead, Clairton, and Braddock.

To register for an appointment, please call 2-1-1, the United Way Helpline. The HSCC's Turtle Creek 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.

Volunteers Needed!

The Human Services Center Corporation (HSCC) is now recruiting volunteers for a fun and rewarding spring program!

Volunteers are needed to assist at the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site at the HSCC. VITA volunteers provide free federal, state, and local income tax preparation assistance to individuals who are on a limited or fixed income. Other volunteers are needed to greet taxpayers when they arrive at the site.

Ideal volunteer candidates include:

- people who have always wanted to learn more about taxes
 - laid-off individuals looking to maximize their time
 - retired individuals working to keep an active mind
 - those interested in continuing their education
- people who want to improve the quality of lives in their community

Prospective volunteers will undergo free training to ensure they meet the IRS VITA volunteer guidelines. All volunteers are taught federal and PA tax law and the preparation of simple tax returns. New volunteers are assigned to work with an experienced volunteer.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in becoming a VITA volunteer at the Human Services Center, please contact Arwen Davis at adavis@hsc-mvpc.org or 412-829-7112.

Earn Your Diploma in 7 Months

Goodwill Employment Training Center (GETC) is now enrolling for its January session, which starts on January 13. Orientations are scheduled for January 11 and 12. GETC offers two seven-month diploma programs in administrative office skills and healthcare office skills.

a 160-hour hands-on externship and have the opportunity to receive nationally recognized computer certificates. GETC graduates have gone on to jobs as customer service representatives, health unit coordinators, clerks, administrative assistants, and more.

GETC offers small class sizes, job placement assistance after graduation, and even a 20% discount at local Goodwill stores. GETC is located in Lawrenceville. Transportation to GETC is easy via the PAT 91

or 93 bus lines, and free parking is available. GETC is a state-approved private licensed school, accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC).

Prospective students must have a high school diploma or GED. Funding assistance may be available for qualified individuals. For more information or to apply, call 412-632-1706 or e-mail train@goodwillswpa.org. Additional information can be found at www.getcpittsburgh.org.

Earn Your GED While Training for Work

Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania is currently seeking students for The RISE Project. RISE is a free vocational training program that gives students the opportunity to earn their GED while receiving job training for work in construction and maintenance fields.

RISE students receive help with transportation, free lunches, a stipend upon completion of the program, a free

set of hand tools, free GED classes and practice exams, and an opportunity to take the GED test for free.

In addition to GED classes, RISE includes 12 weeks of vocation training in the following fields: carpentry, electrical, plumbing, brick masonry, landscaping, facilities management, green building, weatherization, and painting.

Interested students must be ages 17-24. Students must be out of school, but do not need a high school diploma.

The RISE Project takes place in the South Side at 2400 East Carson Street. If you or someone you know could benefit from RISE, contact Whitney Kasprzak at 412-632-1742 or whitney.kasprzak@goodwillswpa.org.



Human Services Center Corporation 5th Annual Resource Fair

FREE Items and Activities:

Ice Cream for the first 300 people
Osteoporosis Checks
Vision Screenings
Flu Shots

FREE Information Available:

Credit Counseling
Mental Health Services
Housing
GED Preparation
Nutrition and Healthcare
Job and Career Coaching
SNAP and Compass Benefits
Youth Programs

Dozens of Door Prizes:

Pitt Football Tickets
Multiple Gift Cards in the \$20 Range
GRAND PRIZE is a \$250 Gift Card

Thursday, October 22, 2015

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m

519 Penn Avenue

Turtle Creek, PA 15145

No RSVP required

For Questions call Darrah Bird at 412-829-7112 or e-mail at dbird@hsc-mvpc.org

Brought to you by the

Mon Valley Providers Council and Community College of Allegheny County