Fall Resource Fairs: Big Impact

Mon Valley Providers Council

This past fall, the Human Services Center Corporation (HSCC) partnered with Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) to host two resource fairs at South Campus in West Mifflin and hosted its 5th Annual Community Resource Fair in Turtle Creek. The goal of the Community Resource Fairs was to connect the public with available community services. Over 300 people attended these important events!

Two fairs were offered at CCAC on September 8th and 9th in the afternoon and evening to accommodate the largest cross-section of students and community members. Attendees received important information in areas such as mental health, health insurance, government benefits such as SNAP, credit counseling, and career services. Attendees also received snacks as well as got a chance to enter for several drawings for gift cards and prizes. Evaluations completed by attendees indicated high levels of knowledge were obtained and overall satisfaction.

HSCC’s 5th Annual Community Resource Fair was held on October 22nd. Everyone in attendance received a ticket for free ice cream. Games, crafts, recipe making, and face painting were available. The event also raffled off many prizes such as Giant Eagle gift cards, gift baskets for children, Pitt football and basketball tickets, as well as the grand prize of a $250 Visa gift card.

Thirty-four organizations attended the event. Services in attendance included medical screenings, transportation, education, job training, family support, aging, food assistance, and housing.

The event was coordinated with Lights on After School to celebrate out of school programming.
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, PAC/PAWNET, 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 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.
- KOOL Summer Program is accepting applications. KOOL serves 150 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, McKeesport Area, and West Mifflin School Districts. ELP is currently accepting applications. For more information, contact 412-829-7112.
- The McKeeport Collaborative helps women seeking to achieve self-sufficiency through goals of employment and/or education by currently accepting applications. KOOL serves 150 youth in first through fifth grade.

To find more information, contact 412-829-7112.
Free Tax Preparation

Human Services Center

The Human Services Center Corporation (HSCC) is pleased to announce that free tax preparation through the IRS VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program and the Money In Your Pocket Coalition has begun.

The program offers free tax help to people who earn less than $45,000 as a family, or $25,000 as an individual, and need assistance in preparing their own tax return.

World AIDS Day Commemoration in McKeesport

Mon Valley Providers Council

On Tuesday, December 1, 2015, the Mon Valley Collaborative HIV/AIDS Working Group commemorated World AIDS Day for the 14th year with a cookout and information session in McKeesport.

The goal for holding the event has always been education and prevention of HIV/AIDS. Hotdogs, nachos, and hot chili were provided to the community and all attendees were invited to step inside and receive valuable information about the virus from experts. Posters and community education projects from this past summer’s Project H.E.A.R.T., an 8-week in-depth HIV/AIDS and Job Readiness program for high school students, were also on display for attendees.

The Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force offered testing for HIV and STIs. 120 community members took part in the day’s events and gained valuable knowledge and skills.

Financial Aid Seminars

State Senator Jim Brewster

State Senator Jim Brewster and PHEAA are sponsoring two upcoming financial aid seminars for those looking to further their education after high school. For more information, go to RSVP for one of the dates, contact Kathy Jo in the Senator’s McKeesport District Office.

Saturday, March 5th - 10AM; Penn State Greater Allegheny, Ostermayer Room- Student Community Center, 4050 University Drive, McKeesport PA 15132.

Saturday, March 19th - 10AM; CCAC Boyce Campus, Auditorium/Theater, 595 Beatty Road, Monroeville PA 15146.

Workforce Development Program for High School Seniors

Human Services Center

Do you have a teen that will be a senior next school year? Do you want your teen to have a plan for after graduation to move on to a successful life after high school? Then the Human Services Center Corporation’s Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) may be a perfect fit! ELP is a workforce development and college readiness program for seniors attending East Allegheny, McKeesport Area, West Mifflin Area, and Woodland Hills High Schools that is incorporated into the students’ school day.

Participants attend a weekly session during the school day where they are instructed in a curriculum specifically created for seniors to prepare them for success after high school. A variety of professionals also present to the class throughout the year on their career fields and personal development as well as students are matched to job shadowing opportunities.

Participants work one-on-one with a staff person regularly to receive highly individualized attention and support in their pursuit of their goals. They create goal plans and refer to the plans throughout the year to stay on track.

Free Stress Management Classes

Forbes Family Medicine

There will be a series of classes held from January to June on a variety of topics. These topics will cover stress management, improving health and managing family stressors.

These free sessions will be held on Wednesday and Thursday evenings in the Monroeville Medical Arts Building, 2550 Mosaic Boulevard, Monroeville, PA 15146 (located close to Forbes Hospital).

Office of the President

For more information, please call 412.457.1100 or email jjohns@wpahs.org to request a schedule or to get more information.

Customer Service Representative Training Program

Life’sWork of Western PA offers the Computer and Customer Service Training Program (CSR). This free 8 week training program includes Microsoft Office programs like Word and Excel, soft skills training, and phone skills. Creating a resume, practice interviews with UPMC, and help with finding a job are included. Past employers include PSAN, PNC, UPMC, and Alorica.

For more information, please contact Beth Zvetelsout at 412-471-2600 extension 407 or via email at ezvetelsout@lifesworkwpa.org.

Career and Counseling Suite Open

CCAC South Campus

The new Career and Counseling Suite had a grand opening open house and is open for business. The opening of the remodeled space was two years in the making at the Community College of Allegheny County South Campus. Over 40 students, staff and administrators attended the open house including Campus President Dr. Charlene Newkirk and CCAC College President Dr. Donna Rich Balloch. As part of the celebration, food, refreshments and cake were offered for those in attendance.

The new office facility includes conference room space, an employer interview room, computers for student usage, staff offices, a student lounge, a welcoming lobby area and new electronic message monitors that are dedicated to CCAC Job Placement & Career Services and Counseling information and events.

"We want to continue to develop an atmosphere where the students’ and community needs are what is most important," Rick Roberts, Director, Job Placement & Career Services said. "We are excited to be in a space where we can assist and work with students and the community in an inviting and uplifting environment".

After many months of design consultation, design draft updates and actual remodeling work which was completed by the South Campus facilities and maintenance staff, the office suite is ready for use by the students, staff and community members.

CCAC-South encourages students, alumni and all community members to visit the space and explore accessing the multitude of free services that Job Placement & Career Services has to offer. Please contact Job Placement & Career Services at (412) 469-6214 or on line at www.c cac.edu/job-placement.

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Vocational Services

Enroll now in classes beginning in August 2016 for Paramedic and Massage Therapy.

For more information contact

Dr. Elizabeth Strenkowskia at 724-325-6626 or estrenkowskia@ccac.edu.

Rapidly Expanding Careers

CCAC Boyce Campus

Massage Therapy has become increasingly important in the health and wellness professions; the need for massage therapists has risen dramatically. According to the U.S. Department of Labor in 2012, employment for massage therapists is expected to increase 23 percent from 2012 to 2022, faster than average for all occupations. We offer certificate programs and there are many opportunities. We offer certificate programs and there are many opportunities.

Employment in the health professions and the public health sector is projected to expand as medical care continues to evolve. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, employment opportunities are expected to increase 23 percent from 2012 to 2022, faster than average for all occupations. We offer certificate programs and there are many opportunities.

For more information, please contact Beth Zvetelsout at 412-471-2600 extension 407 or via email at ezvetelsout@lifesworkwpa.org.

The McKeospor Collaborative invites you to commemorate:
National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and Celebration

Date: Thursday, March 10, 2016
Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm
Location: Morning Star Baptist Church
307 Shaw Ave. Clairton, PA 15025

Our program includes: HIV/AIDS education and Q&A sessions, personal perspectives on HIV/AIDS, a performance from Victorious Praise mine group, and HIV Education Bingo Dinner where questions are provided and all are welcome. HIV and STI testing will also be available.

Space is limited. Please RSVP to Darrah Bird at 412-829-7112 or dbird@hec-wvpa.org.

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In April, 25 people benefited from a housing event focused on transportation, home ownership, and coordinated intake for emergency housing. Survey results indicated that provided information was extremely helpful and informative.

30 people attended the fall housing roundtable “Piecing Together the Housing Puzzle” and participated in workshops focused on fair housing, home ownership and credit, rental assistance, and transportation. Participants additionally received information on housing with a criminal background, the United Way 211 Helpline, obtaining low cost or free home repairs, and section 8 housing.

25 social workers, healthcare workers, community activists, and members attended a seminar on LGBT Healthcare in November. Presentations included working with LGBT persons in healthcare settings, older LGBT individuals, as well as two personal perspectives speakers. Surveys indicated a high degree of satisfaction with the program and that participants felt the information was interesting, informative, and helpful to their work.

20 individuals attended a Voter Celebration Breakfast in November.

Over 70 job-seekers attended the annual How to Get a Job and Keep It seminar at Community College of Allegheny County South Campus. The fair was offered during the afternoon and evening with over 70 employers and students receiving information on self-sufficiency and poverty, housing, addiction and mental health, food and benefit programs, healthcare and insurance, workforce development, job seeker services, and health screenings.

Over 200 people and 32 vendors participated in the 5th Annual Community Resource Fair at the Human Services Center Corporation.

60 people received information on adult education, employment, and GED Programs.

15 people were given information on youth services and single mother programs.

Over 30 people attained information on sliding scale medical and dental services.

Transportation services information was given to 11 individuals.

Over 100 people received information on drug and alcohol services.

50 people sought out information on senior transportation and Medicare counseling.

Women’s health resources were provided to 125 people.

40 people attained information on self-sufficiency and poverty programs.

Healthy eating and recipe information was provided to 50 individuals.

21 MVPC members volunteered, and 60 school counselors participated in a poverty simulation conducted in partnership with the Department of Human Services Office of Community Outreach at Pittsburgh Technical Institute. Surveys indicated that participants and volunteers gained insight and found the experience to be valuable.

A total of 143 free flu shots were distributed.