

WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE

STEP holding events to build endowment fund

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The establishment of three endowment funds already and now a fourth may help STEP Inc. rely less on taxpayer dollars.

With the recent creation of a community collaboration endowment, the agency is planning three events this fall to raise money to build that fund: Quizzo on the Hiawatha at 6 p.m. Sept. 5, a murder mystery at DiSalvo's at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 27, and a gift card Bingo on Nov. 4 at STEP's Clinton County Community Center in Lock Haven.

"For us, it's an opportunity to be

more self-sufficient as an agency, which is my goal ... We already established three other endowments. This is the fourth," said James D. Plankenhorn, president

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and CEO. "We still have workforce development and early learning to go. The community collaboration pathway ... will of course be reinvested back into our programming. That's what all of this is designed to do."

He said a long-term goal is to rely less on taxpayer dollars, and creating endowments like this can help make that possible.

"This year, our main fundraising focus is the community collaboration endowment ... So the community collaboration pathway's big focus is a multiplier effect against fighting poverty," said Jamey Williams, executive assistant. "It's cooperating and partnerships with other agencies to

maximize our resources. Instead of duplicating services, we complement services."

The events are designed to provide a fun night of entertainment while allowing those who attend to give back to the community.

"They will be fun events and a good way for the community to help support STEP through their donation and the fee to participate. Those proceeds go directly toward the endowment ... so while the community is having fun, they can invest in our programming," he said.

"We're always trying to be creative and do something new," he said.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Williams at jbwilliams@stepcorp.org or 570-601-9546.