

# STEP News

## Lycoming-Clinton Counties Commission for Community Action (STEP), Inc.

Volume 1, Issue 1

### Every Journey Starts with a First STEP

*By Janet Alling, STEP, Inc. President & CEO*



Welcome to the introductory issue of STEP News. Our agency history stretches back to the 1960's. To explain our identity in this 21st century, we need to start with our grounding, which is our

mission: to engage diverse individuals, families and communities in the pursuit of social and economic success—or—"STEP", Success Through Engagement and Partnership.

Those chosen success paths have many characteristics depending upon life circumstances and economic conditions. To simplify the STEP road map, we have organized our endeavors under five Pathways to Success:

1. The Early Learning Pathway leads to success in school and life;
2. The Housing Options Pathway leads to a safe and affordable home;
3. The Workforce Development Pathway leads to employment and self-support;
4. The Community Collaboration Pathway leads to increased resources for individual and community success; and,
5. The Independent Living Pathway leads to dignity and choice throughout life.

We hope you will learn about STEP and its Pathways to Success through this and future issues of STEP News.

#### Inside This Issue:

- Economic Impact
- Clinton County Community Center Groundbreaking
- Annual Meeting & Dinner
- Early Head Start Launched
- Weatherization Works

# Economic Impact

## American Recovery And Reinvestment Act (ARRA)



### Helping partners and area businesses to create new jobs

In a three year period, ARRA funding will provide the means for STEP to weatherize an additional 500 housing units in Lycoming and Clinton Counties, which will result in conserving more energy and reducing energy costs for our customers. Ten private sector employers, who are partnering with STEP to implement these weatherization projects, were able to create six new jobs and retain 15 other positions.

### Clinton County Community Center

A significant portion of the renovation costs for STEP's new Clinton County Community Center was underwritten by ARRA funding. Additionally, the local economy was further stimulated by the fact that construction related jobs were created and maintained, and American-made building materials were purchased.



ARRA funding created 10 additional positions in STEP's Community Connect AmeriCorps program, providing 12,000 hours of service to 14 area nonprofit organizations.

ARRA funding enabled STEP to create eight new jobs to more fully address those service areas hardest hit by the economic downturn including: foreclosure prevention, housing, income management and employment barriers to social and economic success.

# Clinton County Community Center Groundbreaking

"It's gratifying to see so many seniors here, because it's your contributions that initiated this project." "This started as a vision...for a permanent and attractive home for you, and the end to Head Start children being moved from site to site...STEP needed a permanent presence in this community to match its permanent commitment." *Janet Alling, President & CEO, STEP,*

Seniors, dignitaries and community members gathered at the former Kmart building in Clinton Plaza on August 27, 2010 to conduct a groundbreaking ceremony for the new community center.

**"This is a phenomenal day, This is what we all work hard for...to make things like this happen... Helping children and helping seniors, that's what good governance is all about."**

*Joel Long, STEP Board Member and Commissioner*

Upon completion the center will house nine classrooms for Early Head Start and Head Start services, a senior center with commercial grade kitchen, an indoor exercise area for seniors and children, a large outdoor area for recreation, offices for case management, a STEP transportation service hub and other amenities.



Breaking ground for the new Clinton County Community Center (L-R) Commissioner Thomas Bossert, Brenda Robinson, Head Start Program Specialist, representing the Philadelphia Regional Office, Senator John Wozniak, Janet Alling, STEP President & CEO, Representative Mike Hanna, Commissioner Joel Long, Lock Haven, Mayor Richard Vilello, Jr., Commissioner Adam Coleman, and Daniel Vilello, representing PA Department of Environmental Protection.

**"Many hands make light work, A lot of local effort went into this project...it's a great day in Lock Haven. This center will serve the entire community, from our youngest to our most seasoned."**

*John Wozniak, State Senator*



State Rep. Mike Hanna and State Sen. John Wozniak present a \$2 million Commonwealth check to STEP, Inc. represented by Janet Alling, President & CEO, and to Clinton County, represented by Commissioners Joel Long, Adam Coleman and Thomas Bossert.

Also in attendance were: Former Lock Haven Mayor Bill Eisemann, former Clinton County Commissioners Bud Yost, Richard Kyle and Dan Vilello, Lock Haven Mayor Rick Vilello and many others who were involved in the effort.

**"Taking care of seniors is a core responsibility attached to taking care of the community."**

*Mike Hanna, State Representative*

# STEP, Inc. 2010 Annual Meeting & Dinner

## 44th Meeting-Haywood's on the Water

### Early Education Makes Cents



STEP's success in securing a highly competitive national grant expanding services to infants and toddlers was lauded by Colleen Mendel, in her keynote address "Early Education Makes Cents". Ms. Mendel is the Executive Director of Training and Technical Assistance at the Western Kentucky University.

(For more information about this Early Head Start Program, see page 6.)

To receive an electronic copy,  
please call or email STEP at

570-326-0587

[step@stepcorp.org](mailto:step@stepcorp.org)

STEP Would Like To Thank These  
Businesses & Community  
Organizations For Their Generous  
Contributions

Complete Cleaning; Grieb Architects;

J.E.M. Pro, Inc.;

Seelye's Landscaping;

Thomas B. Keller



**Lonza**



**Knight-Confer Funeral Home**



**BILLTOWN CAB COMPANY, INC.**

# STEP, Inc. 2010 Annual Meeting & Dinner

## 44th Meeting-Haywood's on the Water

### STEP Appreciates The Following Businesses For Their Generous Contributions

Comprehensive Financial Group; Quality Air Mechanical, Inc.;  
Steam Specialist; The Right Degree Heating & Air Conditioning Company



### 640 Years of Dedicated Service

Janet Alling, STEP President & CEO, paid tribute to 43 STEP employees, who received years-of-service awards, ranging from 5 to 35 years. Alling extended sincere appreciation to the honored employees, on behalf of STEP's Board of Directors and Administration. She also thanked employees on behalf of STEP's customers "that both drive our work purpose and whose success defines our effectiveness".



**Front Row:** John Maggs (20 yrs), Shahnaz Mondanipour (20 yrs), Anita Hill (15 yrs), Buffy Neese (5 yrs), Barbara Griffith (5 yrs), Mary Lou Bonner (35 yrs), Barbara Sornberger (20 yrs), William Garman (30 yrs), Frederick Evers (25 yrs), Terry Roller (30 yrs)

**Middle Row:** Steve Katherman (10 yrs), Donna Workman (10 yrs), Christy Livermore (5 yrs), Elaine Kepner (5 yrs), Mary Van Emon (15 yrs), Debbie Kennedy (20 yrs), Joyce Jones (15 yrs), Paula Edler (35 yrs), Brenda McDermit (20 yrs), Valerie Brungard (20 yrs), Shirley Yoder (10 yrs)

**Back Row:** Jeffery Dawson (10 yrs), William Weed (5 yrs), Kerry Swales (10 yrs), Shirley Blanksby (10 yrs), Sandra Andrus (5 yrs), Maria Casale-Faubion (10 yrs), Lucinda Crawford (15 yrs), David Wetzel (10 yrs), James Plankenhorn (5 yrs), Martin Hines (20 yrs)

**Not Pictured:** Robin Rotoli (10 yrs), Rebecca Reeder (5 yrs), Jeffrey Powers (10 yrs), Karen Opp (30 yrs), Becky Masorti (10 yrs), Carol Bower (35 yrs), Robert Clark (20 yrs), Robin DeAngelis (20 yrs), Mary Jo Henrickson (15 yrs), Ruby Savin (5 yrs), Deenie Keeler (5 yrs), Wanda Weaver (5 yrs)

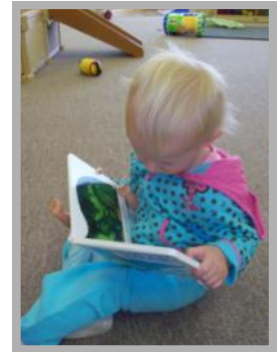
# Early Head Start Launched

The first program of its kind in the area, the STEP Lycoming-Clinton Head Start Program launched its new Early Head Start Program in September 2010. Competitive funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services allows the program to serve 92 infants, toddlers and pregnant women in Lycoming and Clinton Counties through September 29, 2011 and to invest in STEP's Clinton County Community Center, which will house the program upon completion.



The sensory-motor experience of finger painting allows Cameron to develop hand-eye coordination and muscle control.

Early Head Start is a year-round, two-generation program that promotes healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, enhances the development of children ages birth to three, and promotes healthy family functioning. Individualized learning experiences foster children's growth and development, and responsive services recognize parents as their child's first and best teacher.



Jacinda develops her book-handling and reading skills, that will have a lasting positive effect.

Lasting positive effects from participation in Early Head Start include improved literacy and math skills, fewer aggressive or withdrawal behaviors, improved health status and higher levels of sustained attention that allow learning to occur. Greater engagement and less negativity by children toward their parents is another beneficial lasting effect of the program. Early Head Start children will have the opportunity to continue their enrollment in the STEP Lycoming-Clinton Head Start preschool program.



Bryce, Caylyn, and Liam develop their socialization skills, while conducting an "early" scientific experiment that shows cause and effect – movement causes the formation of bubbles.

Early Learning  
Pathway to Success



A very high ratio of 1 teacher to 4 children, builds strong attachments that optimize child development. (L-R) Jacinda, Ethan, Brandy Blackwell - Teacher, and Faith



For more information contact:  
Sue Evans at (570) 326-0587 or 1-800-346-3020

# Weatherization Works



## Energy Tip #1

A compact fluorescent lamp (CFL), also known as a compact fluorescent light or energy saving light, uses 25% of the energy of an incandescent bulb on average, while providing an equal amount of lighting.



Housing Options  
Pathway to Success



## Energy Tip #2

For more efficient heating, change your furnace filter at least every two months. The furnace will heat better, and less hot air will go up the chimney.



## Energy Tip #3

Use nature's energy... in cold weather open shades facing the sun and close shades after the sun goes down.



**STEP's Community Connect AmeriCorps honored ten members who earned the Presidential Service Award.**

**2009-2010 Service Year**

Members are listed with service location:  
Corinne Amrom – Campbell Street Center  
Donna Paulhamus – Salvation Army-Williamsport  
Janice Ray – STEP Lycoming-Clinton Head Start  
Jarrin Rozenblad – Williamsport Area School District  
Joseph Campagna, Jr. – STEP Homeownership Counseling  
Michael Miller – STEP Lycoming-Clinton Head Start  
Helen Grosso – North Penn Legal Services  
Jonathan Treese – Williamsport Area School District  
Kimberly Love – American Rescue Workers  
Michael Laychur – STEP Housing & Building Initiatives

Each of these members provided service hours that exceeded the required commitment to earn an education award.

**Community Collaboration  
Pathway to Success**

Janet Alling, President & CEO

Traci Lowe, CFO

**STEP, Inc. Board of Directors**

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2138 Lincoln Street

P.O. Box 3568

Williamsport, PA 17701

Phone: 570-326-0587

1-800-346-3020

Fax: 570-322-2197

Email: [step@stepcorp.org](mailto:step@stepcorp.org)

Website: [www.stepcorp.org](http://www.stepcorp.org)

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