



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2016

STEP, Inc



STEP, Inc. 1966-2016, and beyond!
Celebrating 50 Years
Serving our customers and planning for the future!

Featured Article

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Your chance to win a 1966 Ford Mustang Convertible in honor of STEP's 50th Anniversary.

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STEP Office of Aging honors volunteers with a series of luncheons.

Employee of the Quarter

Nate Snook: January - March 2016



Pictured from left: Senior Project Manager Jeff Dawson, Production Supervisor Nate Snook, Project Manager Fred Englert, and Chief Strategy Officer Terry Roller.

Nate Snook has been employed with STEP for seven years. He started out as a Construction Laborer and is currently a Project Manager in the Housing Services Department.

Nate's level of professionalism has been instrumental in the development of our field personnel in regard to skills and morale within his department. He has been an integral part of the restructuring of the Housing Services Department and has taken on several job responsibilities that go above and beyond what has been assigned to him, including: developing work site safety plans, developing training materials for field personnel, and serving as Chairperson of the STEP Safety Committee. In addition to these tasks, Nate has also taken the initiative to complete over 300 hours of training as a Residential Home Inspector, which allows him to better serve the department and customers by educating them on issues within their homes.

As Employee of the Quarter, Nate Snook is in the running for Employee of the Year—along with Kay Keller, Patti Kiesling, and Tiffany Davis. The winner will be announced June 18th during STEP's 50th Birthday Celebration at Knoebels!

Success

“Nate has continuously demonstrated his dedication not only to STEP, but also the customers he works with on a daily basis.”

*Jeff Dawson, Senior Project Manager
and Fred Englert, Project Manager*

STEP 2016 Fundraiser

Community Collaboration Pathways to Success

Partnership



First Community
Foundation Partnership
OF PENNSYLVANIA

Engagement

To celebrate STEP's 50th Anniversary Year and ensure another 50 years of partnerships, we are unveiling an exciting fundraising event to help establish the STEP General Endowment Fund: STEP is raffling off a 1966 Ford Mustang Convertible!

Tickets are \$20 each and only 3,500 will be sold. Tickets can be purchased at STEP's main office at 2138 Lincoln Street, Williamsport and at STEP's Clinton County Community Center at 124 East Walnut Street, Lock Haven. The drawing will take place during our 50th Anniversary Progressive Dinner in November of 2016. All proceeds of the raffle will go toward the STEP General Endowment Fund.

Once established, this permanent endowment will generate income each year that will be able to support any of STEP's Pathways to Success. The fund will be professionally managed through the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania, alongside STEP's Independent Living Endowment Fund, to ensure that assets remain strong over time. As a community action agency, STEP receives public and private funding, but the needs of our customers always surpass the available funding. The STEP General Endowment will help us bridge those gaps and provide vital services. It will also allow STEP to adapt and better weather upheavals, taking a pro-active stance to ensure another 50 years of service to the community.

For additional information, please visit www.stepcorp.org/raffle.

OFFICIAL RULES: Individuals under the age of 18 are not permitted to purchase Small Games of Chance raffle tickets.

This prize is being awarded "AS IS" with no warranty, guarantee, or maintenance agreement, either express or implied by STEP. The Winner assumes all responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the vehicle and understands that the car is being raffled off "AS IS". STEP expressly disclaims any and all warranties expressed or implied. STEP disclaims any warranty as to the condition or working order of the car. It is the Winner's responsibility to ensure he/she understands that this is a 50 year old vehicle and as such, drives like a 50 year old vehicle. Braking, handling, pull-outs, and other safety related situations and equipment (or lack thereof) that could become an issue with an "antique" vehicle must be taken into account before the Winner or their passengers ride in the vehicle. STEP assumes no liability in connection with the raffling off of the car. Furthermore, STEP shall not be responsible for any defects, repairs, or other costs that may be associated with the vehicle being awarded by STEP to the Winner. By purchasing a ticket, both STEP and the Winner agree that the terms of the raffle of the vehicle listed above do not contain any other commitments, covenants or promises.

The purchase of raffle tickets is not tax deductible.



- ✓ Estimated fair market value: \$20,000
- ✓ STEP plans to pay the approx. \$8,000 in taxes title and registration transfer costs!!!
- ✓ Titled as a 79,000 original mile vehicle
- ✓ 200 cubic inch 6-cylinder motor
- ✓ 3-speed automatic transmission
- ✓ 4-wheel manual drum brakes
- ✓ Non-power steering
- ✓ Newer paint and interior
- ✓ The convertible top may be original and has a ½ inch tear
- ✓ New gas tank
- ✓ The AM radio works!

Success

“This is a great and fun opportunity for us to pay it forward, all in an effort to establish a legacy of funding to support STEP programming for the next 50 years and beyond! I am really excited and encouraged by the interest in this activity, and am hopeful this will take us over the top in our anniversary fundraising goals.

Thanks to everyone who has supported STEP, our mission, and our customers along the way!”

Jim Plankenhorn, STEP President & CEO

Week of the Young Child

Early Learning Pathway to Success

Partnership



Engagement

The Week of the Young Child™ (WOTYC) is an annual celebration organized by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, and families. This year's themes were: Music Monday, Taco Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday.



Music Monday!

Through music, children develop math, language, and literacy skills - all while having fun and being active!

Guest musician, Michael Miller, entertained children at the Reach Road Head Start in Williamsport.



Taco Tuesday!

This fun, food-themed day is about more than just cheese and salsa. Cooking together connects math with literacy skills, science, and more.

STEP's Early Head Start classroom at the Williamsport YMCA engaged in healthy eating habits by creating their own tacos.



Work Together Wednesday!

When children build together, they explore math and science concepts and develop their social and early literacy skills.

Head Start children at St. John's Classroom #2 in Williamsport worked together to complete "Partner Paintings."



Artsy Thursday!

Children develop creativity, social skills, and fine motor skills with open-ended art projects where they can make choices, use their imaginations, and create with their hands.

On Artsy Thursday, STEP Early Head Start at the Clinton County Community Center in Lock Haven celebrated by creating Oobleck!



Family Friday!

Engaging and celebrating families is at the heart of supporting our youngest learners. STEP Head Start applauds the role of family members as young children's first and most important teachers.

Children from Lock Haven Head Start Classroom #2 celebrated by performing songs for their family members.

Success

***"The Week of the Young Child allows STEP Head Start to celebrate publicly the things we plan and do daily to honor children's curiosity and hands-on learning."
Laurel Cowher, STEP Head Start Education Supervisor***

MIHOPE

Early Learning Pathway to Success



Engagement STEP Early Head Start recently participated in the Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation (MIHOPE), the largest and most comprehensive home visiting study ever conducted in the United States. Being deployed across 12 states and 88 sites, the study will assess child and parental outcomes including health, development, parenting skills, school readiness, and academic achievement. The study also will assess the potential of home visitation programs to reduce health care costs. The study's results are expected to be released in 2018. STEP Head Start recruited families who completed a baseline survey and agreed to share additional information and records. They will be followed in the study until their children are 5 years old.



From left are STEP Head Start staff participating in the study: in front, Sue Evans, Teresa Moyer, Stephanie Stamile, Donna Flick, Wendy Lucas, Rachel Homan; in back, Kathy Cowher, Carrie Campbell, Nancy Saiers, Casey Ruble, Jennifer Platt. Missing from photo is Teresa Bartholomew.

Success

“The MIHOPE study is a unique opportunity to answer Congress’ questions about the effect of early childhood home visiting programs on child and parent outcomes, and to gain knowledge to inform future programming decisions in our community.”

Sue Evans, STEP Head Start Deputy Director

Recognition from PDA

Independent Living & Workforce Development Pathways to Success



Engagement STEP was recently recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging with the “Silver Award” for outstanding achievements in the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). Awardees are recognized for meeting or exceeding their performance measures, including: hours of community service employment, entry into unsubsidized employment, retention in unsubsidized employment, earnings, number of eligible individuals served, and most-in-need.



Pictured above are Office of Aging Director Fred Shrimp, Workforce Specialist Lynn Landon, and STEP President & CEO Jim Plankenhorn

Success

“Some older workers find themselves out of work and without the skills to find a job. SCSEP provides on the job training to develop skills and work habits that can lead to employment.”
Fred Shrimp, STEP Office of Aging Director

Recognition of National Service

Community Collaboration Pathway to Success

Partnership



Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE**



Engagement

The nation's mayors and county officials are increasingly turning to national service as a cost-effective strategy to address local challenges. By unleashing the power of citizens, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs have a positive and lasting impact – making our cities and counties better places to live. To spotlight the impact of national service and thank those who serve, over 3,500 mayors and county officials participated in the fourth-annual Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service on April 5, 2016.



In Lock Haven, Mayor Bill Baney visited with STEP AmeriCorps members in Clinton County at their service sites, including the Infant Development Program, Salvation Army, Clinton County Housing Authority, and the Ross Library.

Success

“Today, I joined with Mayors from 3,500 cities and towns from across the United States to honor AmeriCorps. Lock Haven residents, and those people from across the country, are encouraged to recognize the positive impact of national service in our country, to thank those who serve, and to find ways to give back to their communities.”

Bill Baney, Mayor of Lock Haven

Office of Aging Volunteer Banquet

Independent Living Pathway to Success

Partnership  STEP INC.

FREY'S
COMMISSARY



Engagement

STEP Office of Aging volunteers were recently recognized for their contributions at banquets held at the RiverWalk Center in South Williamsport on April 22 and 29, 2016, and on May 6, 2016, at the Clinton County Community Center in Lock Haven.

Many of these volunteers deliver Meals on Wheels, some help out with bingo and exercise classes, while others donate their time and knowledge through the Tax-Aide and Ombudsman programs. All volunteer their time to ensure the success of STEP Office of Aging programs.

Dozens of volunteers received certificates for their extended years of service to senior programs. This year the George C. Meck Volunteer of the Year Award was shared by Phyllis and Richard Maietta, pictured at right with Aging Advisory Council Chairperson, Ray Humphrey. Together, Phyllis and Richard gave 1,276 hours of service to STEP.



The meals at both locations were provided through Frey's Commissary. Culinary Arts students from Williamsport Area High School served guests at the RiverWalk Center. National Honor Society students from Central Mountain High School provided service at the Clinton County Community Center banquet.



Success

“Everything our volunteers do is important, it takes every one of them to run our senior centers”

Roxane Tartaglia, Loyalsock/Montoursville Center Manager

The mission of STEP is to engage diverse individuals, families, and communities in the pursuit of social and economic success.

*Jim Plankenhorn, President & CEO
Traci Lowe, Chief Financial Officer
Rachelle Abbott, Chief Operations Officer
Terry Roller, Chief Strategy Officer*

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Save the Date for Veggie Vouchers!

*Thursday June 2nd at the RiverWalk Center 10 am - 3 pm
Friday June 3rd at the Clinton County Community Center 11 am - 4 pm*



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