



Newsletter

20
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DREAMWEEK



Winter
2024

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Star Awards

STEP recognizes its employees year-round through a peer recommendation and recognition program called the STEP Star Awards.

Employees are encouraged to submit the name(s) of fellow coworkers who are going above and beyond to make STEP's mission and vision a reality. Employees nominated for a STEP Star Award are recognized with a personalized STEP Star certificate and a STEP Star pin. Each month a name is drawn from that month's recipients for a \$25 gift card of their choosing.

November, December, and January STEP Star award winners are:



Art Hengler
Transportation
Driver

Jennifer Wilson
Head Start
Teacher

Erica Blake
Head Start
Education Supervisor

Erin Bissman
Office of Aging
Center Coordinator

Melissa Corlew
Head Start
Education Supervisor

Michelle Anderson
Head Start
Teacher Assistant

Jane Thompson
Office of Aging
Centers for Healthy Aging Manager

Carly Engel
Office of Aging
Center Coordinator

Candice Poff
Head Start
Teacher

Jessica Ray
Administration
Information Assistant

Tammy Frye
Office of Aging
Center Coordinator

Sarah Noble
Office of Aging
Center Coordinator

Brenda Geyer
Head Start
Teacher Assistant

Alissa Chamberlin
Office of Aging
Protective Services Caseworker

Brenda McDermit
Office of Aging
Center Coordinator

Melissa Dally
Office of Aging
Center Coordinator

Sunny Kustaborder
Head Start
Family Advocate

Kelsey Johnson
Head Start
Teacher Assistant

Tara Coleman
Office of Aging
Center Coordinator

Helen Grosso
Office of Aging
Center Coordinator



The winner of November's gift card drawing was Candice Poff!

The winner of December's gift card drawing was Jessica Ray!

The winner of January's gift card drawing was Tara Coleman!

Mitten Tree Project

Warm, colorful mittens were distributed this winter to children enrolled in STEP Head Start, thanks to the generosity of many. This is the 19th year STEP Head Start's annual Mitten Tree Project has been able to keep hundreds of children's hands warm for the winter. The collection ran from mid-October through November, then donations were sorted and distributed to Head Start and Early Head Start children in Lycoming and Clinton counties.





This year over 400 pairs of mittens were collected, as well as a donation of 280 pairs of socks and friendship cards from Hope Enterprises' AKTION Club! AKTION Club is an extension of the Kiwanis Club of Williamsport which provides friendship and community service projects to those with disabilities! Thank you for your generous donation!



2024 DREAMWEEK

IT STARTS WITH ME: *Shifting the cultural climate*

The Martin Luther King, Jr., National Day of Service is a defining moment each year when Americans across the country step up to make communities more equitable and take action to create the Beloved Community of Dr. King's dream. Dr. King's acknowledgement and fight for systemic change serves as the call to action for the Day of Service.

MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. During the last quarter-century, the MLK Day of Service has grown, and its impact increased as more Americans embraced the idea that citizenship involves taking an active role in improving communities.

STEP AmeriCorps, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Lycoming College, the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, the United Way of Lycoming County, the United Churches of Lycoming County, and the Lycoming Tri-County NAACP partnered for a week full of events known as Dream Week.





To kick off Dream Week events, STEP AmeriCorps planned its annual Peace Walk on Monday, January 16 as well as a two events at the James V. Brown Library: Kids' Dream Week Storytime and Dream Read for teens and adults.

On Wednesday, January 18, Pennsylvania College of Technology hosted "Dinner and Discussion," a poverty simulation that helps participants understand the impacts of poverty on everyday life. The program, led by trained facilitators from the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank and STEP, featured activities and a discussion centered on structural inequality and empathy.



On Friday, January 19 and Saturday, January 20, the United Churches of Lycoming County hosted a "Meal and a Message" at Sojourner Truth Ministries. The food preparation service project was held Friday evening, and the meal with served, along with a message, on Saturday.

The MLK Day of Service is led by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that engages millions of Americans in service through its AmeriCorps and SeniorCorps programs and leads the nation's volunteer efforts. For more information, visit www.nationalservice.gov.

Santa's Seniors

Over the past 18 years, STEP Office of Aging has partnered with the Williamsport Sun-Gazette, the Lock Haven Express, Backyard Broadcasting, and many other area businesses to coordinate the Santa's Seniors Program. This annual program provides gift boxes to senior citizens who receive Meals on Wheels through STEP's Office of Aging. Often, these gifts are the only holiday items received by our home-bound seniors.

This year, more than 100 Meals on Wheels recipients in Lycoming and Clinton counties received Santa's Seniors gift deliveries over the holiday season!

STEP Office of Aging staff sorted donations from the community and employees of C&N Bank packed the gift sets during the weeks leading up to the holiday season. Instead of a single boxed delivery, large tote bags were delivered three times during the holiday season by Meals on Wheels volunteers and Pennsylvania State Police. Hats, gloves, scarves, toiletries, word puzzles, snacks, breakfast foods, and single-serve pantry staples were among the items included in the bags gifted to our most vulnerable seniors, often forgotten during the holidays.





WYROPE *mspt* federal credit union

Angel Tree

Grandparents and older-relative caregivers of minor children in STEP Office of Aging's Caregiver Support Program were featured on Wyrope Williamsport Federal Credit Union's second annual Angel Tree! The Angel Tree program helps provide Christmas gifts for local children in need. Each child's name, age, and wish list was hung on the Angel Tree at Wyrope Williamsport Federal Credit Union (FCU) for donors in our community to sponsor during the weeks leading up to the holiday season.

This portion of the Caregiver Support Program (CSP) is provided to clients 55 years and older that have guardianship, custody, or are informally the primary caregiver for children under the age of 18-years-old. Many of the program participants have more than one child in their care and have established guardianship or custody through the court. Often, the children's biological parents are incarcerated, in active addiction, or deceased. The clients enrolled in this program meet the Pennsylvania Department of Aging income eligibility guidelines and many are living on solely Social Security.

CSP reimburses for many costly and necessary expenses monthly, however, Christmas aid for clients must come from alternative sources. While compiling a master list of resources that clients may qualify for, Wyrope FCU, graciously volunteered to add all 41 of the CSP children to their 2023 Angel Tree. Through community and Wyrope staff donations, each child's wish list was fulfilled in time for the holiday.





Mark Your Calendar!

Raise the Region

Wednesday, March 13 at 6:00 PM
through Thursday, March 4 at 11:59 PM



Raise the Region is a 30-hour online fundraising event held by the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania.

Raise the Region gives community members an opportunity to support our local nonprofits by helping them raise as much money as possible! Donations from this strategic and unified effort will support our local nonprofits in addressing the increasing needs of our region. Your contribution will help them in creating more vibrant communities and ultimately help our North Central Pennsylvania region thrive!

Community Assessment

We need your input!
Scan the QR code to take the survey.



A Community Assessment identifies the strengths and resources available in the community to meet the needs of children, youth, and families. The purpose of the Community Assessment is to determine the current needs and the resources required to fill those needs.

Lycoming-Clinton Counties Commission for Community Action (STEP), Inc. requests your assistance to assess our county's needs. Your knowledge and perceptions of the needs faced by you and your family are important to us. Visit www.stepcorp.org/CNA to get started.

C&N Bank's Hats & Horses Fundraiser

Saturday, May 4 at Bald Birds Brewing Company
220 Shaffer Lane, Jersey Shore

C&N Bank has chosen STEP Office of Aging as the beneficiary of their annual fundraiser. In addition to their Golf Tournament and Financial Literacy sessions offered to seniors at STEP's Centers for Healthy Aging, C&N Bank's "Hats & Horses" Kentucky Derby party will also benefit the organization. This fundraiser is open to the public - stay tuned for more information on how to purchase your tickets to the event!



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