



The Mon Valley Providers Council

Presents

The Communicator

APRIL 2015

The Communicator is the official newsletter of the Mon Valley Providers Council (MVPC), an alliance of over 65 human service agencies serving more than 37 communities in the Mon Valley of Allegheny County. To learn more about the MVPC, our member agencies, and their services, read this edition and visit our website at www.hscc-mvpc.org.

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Annual How to Get a Job and Keep It Event A Success!

On March 31, 2015, the Mon Valley Providers Council (MVPC), a program of the Human Services Center Corporation, held the annual How to Get a Job and Keep It seminar sponsored by Citizens Bank and the MVPC Employment and Training Working Group, and hosted by the Community College of Allegheny County, South Campus.

This year's event offered 13 workshops attended by over 50 job seekers and providers. The inspirational keynote address was presented by DeWitt Walton, Assistant to the International President, United Steelworkers and Program Director, Pittsburgh A. Phillip Randolph Institute.

After the keynote address, participants attended workshops

where they were given information on various aspects of job search and employment. These workshops topics included resumes and cover letters, networking, interviewing, and professional wardrobe on a budget, as well as many others.

At this year's event, for the first time ever, an employer panel was held. This panel gave job seekers and opportunity to learn firsthand what employers are looking for, and to ask questions of individuals who do hiring in companies. This was a welcomed addition, and many individuals were able to have their questions addressed.

The attendees of this event were of all ages, employment status, and education levels. According to the surveys completed by job seekers,

this year's seminar was very useful. The MVPC Employment and Training Working Group continues to strive to make the How to Get a Job and Keep It seminar better each year.

If you would like any further information on this event, please feel free to call the MVPC at 412-829-7112.



How to Get a Job and Keep It attendees learn winning interview tips from Goodwill staff members.

The Communicator

is the official newsletter of the Mon Valley Providers Council (MVPC), a program of the Human Services Center, a United Way Agency

519 Penn Avenue • Turtle Creek, PA 15145

Phone: 412-829-7112 • Fax: 412-829-4363 • Website: www.hscc-mvpc.org



A copy of the official registration and financial information of the Human Service Center Corp. can be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



Services at the Human Services Center

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.
- **Budget Counseling:** NeighborWorks of Western Pennsylvania offers free budget and financial counseling. Call 412-281-9773.
- **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, PACE/PACENET, 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 Valley 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 and Saturday at 10:30am. Call 412-824-1958.
- **Overeaters Anonymous (OA):** OA has a support group at the Center every Monday at 6:30pm. Call 412-829-7112.
- **The Youth Learning In a Fun Environment (Youth LIFE) After-School Program** is accepting applications. Youth LIFE serves 100 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 and McKeesport School Districts. ELP is currently accepting applications. For more information, contact 412-829-7112.
- **The McKeesport Collaborative** helps women seeking to achieve self-sufficiency through goals of employment and/or education by providing referrals and guidance. For more information, call 412-829-7112.

Tenant agencies at the Center include:

- Adagio Health** – 724-224-1530
- Allegheny County Health Dept. – W.I.C. Program** – 412-823-1333
- Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Community School East** – 412-464-4043
- Braddock Carnegie Library – Turtle Creek Extension** – 412-829-7112
- Eastern Area Adult Services** – 412-824-6880
- Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council** – 412-969-8486
- Human Services Center Corporation** – 412-829-7112
- Learn “N” Play Development Center** – 412-829-0240
- Mon Valley Providers Council** – 412-829-7112
- Pantry Network of Eastern Suburbs** – 412-824-0006
- Turtle Creek Valley Mental Health/Mental Retardation**
 - Adult Programs – 412-824-8510
 - Alternatives – 412-824-8510
 - Children, Adolescents and Families – 412-349-0632
 - Mobile Medication Team – 412-824-8510
 - Psychiatric and Social Rehabilitation – 412-461-4100

About MVPC

Our Mission: The Mon Valley Providers Council, in collaboration with individuals, families, and groups in the Mon Valley communities, will define and address mutual issues and needs. Building upon the providers and communities, the Mon Valley Providers Council will promote agendas and develop resources for collective action.

Who We Are: The Mon Valley Providers Council (MVPC), a program of the Human Services Center, is an alliance of human service and related organizations, which are based in or have a substantial service presence in the Mon Valley. The MVPC serves as a formal network for information and resource exchange among human service providers in the Mon Valley. The MVPC involves its member organizations in Working Groups, which address crucial issues in the Mon Valley in the areas of Employment and Training, Health, Housing, and Youth. These four Working Groups involve the participation of 69 dues paying members and over 250 staff members of those organizations. Through these standing Working Groups, the Providers Council promotes cooperation, coordination, and collaboration among its member and participating organizations in an effort to fill gaps in human services in the Mon Valley communities.

Staff: The MVPC is staffed through the Human Services Center. Current MVPC staff are:

David Coplan, Director
Mallory Clark, Program Associate

MVPC Leadership

The Steering Committee:

- Laura Zinski**, Chairperson, *Mon Valley Initiative*
- Noreen Fredrick**, Vice Chairperson, *Mon Yough Community Services*
- Tiffanee Heywood**, *Goodwill*
- Jamie Hightower-Poindexter**, *CCAC Boyce*
- Elli Latterman**, *McKeesport Hospital Foundation*
- Holly Livingston**, *Gateway Rehab*
- Paula McWilliams**, *Heritage Community Initiatives*
- Tony Mitchell**, *Penn State Greater Allegheny*
- Charlene Newkirk**, *CCAC South*
- Nancy Osterhus**, Ex-Officio Member
- James Phillips**, *Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR*
- Darla Poole**, *Auberle*
- Lisa Scales**, *Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank*
- Jim Spindler**, *UPMC McKeesport*
- Lynn Tatala**, *Project ELECT*
- Dick Wallace**, Ex-Officio Member

Communities served by MVPC

- Braddock
- Braddock Hills
- Chalfant
- Clairton
- Dravosburg
- Duquesne
- East McKeesport
- East Pittsburgh
- Elizabeth Borough
- Elizabeth Township
- Forest Hills
- Forward Township
- Glassport
- Homestead
- Jefferson Hills
- Liberty
- Lincoln
- McKeesport
- Monroeville
- Munhall
- North Braddock
- North Versailles
- Pitcairn
- Port Vue
- Rankin
- South Versailles
- Swissvale
- Turtle Creek
- Versailles
- Wall
- West Elizabeth
- West Homestead
- West Mifflin
- Whitaker
- White Oak
- Wilkins
- Wilmerding



Need a KOOL Summer Program?

Now in its 20th year of service, the Kids, Outgoing, Outdoing, and Learning (KOOL) Program, a summer academic enrichment program, is currently accepting applications for children going into grades 1-5 in the fall of 2015. Spots fill up very quickly! Apply as soon as possible!

The KOOL Summer Program, a program of the Human Services Center Corporation, provides participants with an educational and fun summer experience where youth participate in reading, math, science, and cultural activities on a daily basis. They also participate in arts and crafts and recreational time. In addition, seminars provided by local agencies are offered to participants throughout the summer. On Fridays, KOOL

participants have the opportunity to attend field trips to various places throughout the Pittsburgh region including the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium, Carnegie Science Center, Phipps Conservatory, PNC Park, Boyce Park Wave Pool, and many more.

KOOL is located at the Human Services Center Corporation, 519 Penn Avenue, Turtle Creek, PA 15145 from July 1-August 14, 2015, Monday-Friday, 8:30AM-4:30PM for students going into grades 1-5. Other than a modest application fee the program activities are FREE! For more information or to obtain an application please call 412-829-7112, visit www.hsc-mvpc.org to download an application, or email sburger@hsc-mvpc.org.

Program for Incoming High School Students

Do you want your teen to have a set plan for after graduation? Do you want your senior to gain the skills and knowledge necessary 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, and Woodland Hills Area High Schools. In addition, West Mifflin Area High School may be included for the upcoming year. The program is incorporated into the students' school day – participants attend a weekly session where they are instructed in a curriculum specifically created for seniors to prepare them for success after high school. A variety of professionals present to the class throughout the year on career fields of interest and personal development, and students are matched to job shadowing opportunities in the Pittsburgh area. Outside of the classroom, participants work one-on-one with a staff person to receive highly individualized attention and support in pursuit of their goals. They create goal plans and refer to the plans throughout the year to stay on track. Plus, participants will have the chance to earn money periodically based on participation and goal completion throughout the school year and post-graduation.

There will be limited spots available and your family must meet the designated requirements to participate. If you or your teen would like to hear more details about the program and/or apply, please call 412-829-7112. Spots fill up very quickly! Apply as soon as possible!

Summer Internship for High School Students

The Human Services Center Corporation (HSCC) is seeking highly motivated and responsible teens for a summer internship! This position provides support to the staff and students enrolled in the KOOL Summer Program, while at the same time giving the chosen Counselors In Training (CITs) a valuable and fun internship experience.

The internship runs from July 1-August 14, 2015, 9:15AM-3:45PM Monday-Thursday and 9AM-4:30PM on Friday at the Human Services Center in Turtle Creek. The CIT responsibilities include working in conjunction with staff and children, assisting with all activities in the classroom and outside daily, being a positive role model for the children, and so much more.

Applicants must be between the ages of 14 and 18 and going into 9th-12th grades in the fall of 2015. If you or your teen would like to hear more details about the internship and/or apply, please call 412-829-7112 or email sburger@hsc-mvpc.org. The selection process is very competitive! All CIT applicants are required to interview for the position. Not all applicants will be offered the position. CIT applications are due May 7th at 4PM.



KOOL participants on a field trip to the park, accompanied by CITs.

2015 MVPC Membership Listing:

ACTION Housing	CCAC – South Campus	Highlands Family Center	Mon Valley Circles Initiative	Steel Valley Family Center
Allegheny Family Network	Discovery House	Holy Family Institute	Mon Valley Initiative	Sto-Rox Family Center
AHN - Forbes Family Medicine	Duquesne Family Center	Human Services Center	Mon Yough Area Chamber of Commerce	The Center for Women
Allegheny Intermediate Unit Community School East	Duquesne Family Support Center	Jefferson Regional Foundation	Mon Yough Community Services, Inc.	The Early Learning Institute
Allegheny Intermediate Unit Head Start	East Allegheny Family Center	Juvenile Court – Mon Yough & Eastern District	NeighborWorks of Western PA	Touching Families
Allegheny Intermediate Unit Project ELECT	Family Resources	Just Harvest	Pantry Network of Eastern Suburbs	Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR
Auberle	Family Services of Western PA	Latino Family Center	PA CareerLink Allegheny East	University of Pittsburgh – School of Social Work
Center for Victims	Forbes Hospital	Life's Work of Western Pennsylvania	PA CareerLink Allegheny East	UPMC McKeesport
Century Heritage Federal Credit Union	Gateway Rehab	Lincoln Park Family Center	Penn State – Greater Allegheny	Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh Hunger Services
Children's Hospital Family Care Connection – Braddock/Rankin/Turtle Creek	Goodwill of SW Pennsylvania	Macedonia FACE, Inc.	Rainbow Kitchen	Veterans Leadership Program
Citizens to Abolish Domestic Apartheid	Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank	McKeesport Collaborative	Rankin Christian Center	Wilksburg Family Center
Clairton Family Center	Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council	McKeesport Family Center	State Senator James Brewster	YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh Wilmerding Branch
CCAC – Boyce Campus	Gwens Girls	McKeesport First Steps Parenting Program	State Senator Jay Costa	YWCA Greater Pittsburgh
	Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh	McKeesport Hospital Foundation	Steel Center AVTS Adult Ed Programs	
	Heritage Community Initiatives	MUSA		



Pittsburgh AmeriCorps Member, Andrew Dadig, works with fellow AmeriCorps members from across the country to raise a wall on a housing project in Raleigh, North Carolina in 2014.

More Than a Job: Work for Habitat for Humanity as an AmeriCorps Member!

Habitat for Humanity is currently looking to hire capable, compassionate individuals to fill AmeriCorps Construction Crew Leader positions for the 2015-2016 service year. The Construction Crew Leaders will be responsible for leading and training volunteers in the safe, sustainable rehabilitation and repair of homes for families in need on a daily basis as a member of Habitat for Humanity's construction and volunteer services team.

These positions are offered through the AmeriCorps program which is a federally funded national service program which provides thousands of Americans

with the opportunity to serve their communities each year. AmeriCorps opportunities are paid service positions which provide a living stipend, medical insurance, and childcare benefits. Since 1994, more than 8,000 people have served with Habitat for Humanity through AmeriCorps, meeting the needs of more than 20,000 families and engaging more than 3.1 million volunteers across the United States. Here in the Pittsburgh area 21 AmeriCorps members have served with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh since 2005 helping more than 24 families gain access to a safe, decent place to call home.

Previous experience in the construction trades is preferred but not required and applicants must be eligible to work in the United States and have a valid Drivers' License. Individuals who are interested in discovering the strength within themselves, gaining leadership skills, building their resumes, and serving others are encouraged to apply! Interested applicants should contact Derek Morris for more information on how to apply at 412-351-0512 x.14 or dmorris@pittsburghhabitat.org Applications must be received by June 1, 2015 to be considered.

McKeesport Collaborative

Are you looking for assistance with achieving self-sufficiency for you and your family?
Are you a woman whose life has been affected in some way by substance abuse?

The McKeesport Collaborative, a program of the Human Services Center Corporation (HSCC) is dedicated to providing services and referrals for women and their children affected by substance abuse and mental health concerns. Referrals for services include the following:

Housing
Education
Employment/Training
Counseling/Therapy
Health care

Additional needs identified by the women

For additional information, please call 412-829-7112, or email ddaugherty@hscm-vpc.org.

The McKeesport Collaborative is financed in part by a grant provided by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development.

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Event

On Thursday March 12, 2015, the McKeesport Collaborative HIV/AIDS Working Group hosted a National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Event at Unity Baptist Church in Braddock.

With over 50 people in attendance, the event promoted education and awareness on HIV/AIDS.

The event was filled with a HIV positive personal perspective, information on HPV and free STI and HIV testing from the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force and Mon Yough Community Services.

The importance of reducing stigma and testing were targeted to young people at the event.

The next community event for HIV/AIDS awareness, hosted by the McKeesport Collaborative Working Group, is the Annual HIV/AIDS Awareness Walk on Saturday October 3, 2015.

Please call 412-829-7112 for more information on the Walk.



Clarisse Jordan from the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force gave her personal perspective on living with HIV.



Duquesne Light Invests in Youth through the Human Services Center

For many years, area residents have benefited from the wide range of youth services offered by the Human Services Center (HSCC). Over the past several years, the HSCC has relied on volunteers and funding support from Duquesne Light. The Human Services Center continues to provide high quality youth programs for area youth such as the Youth LIFE After-School Program, a vibrant after-school program providing an academically-rich and structured environment for 100 local youth. The Emerging Leaders Program affords 100 in-school, low-

income youth, high school seniors in East Allegheny, McKeesport Area, and Woodland Hills School Districts the opportunity to develop work competencies toward completion of their high school diploma and attainment of college, a job, or the military. Furthermore, the KOOL Summer Program is a summer academic enrichment program for 150 youth.

According to Jessica Rock, Director of Communications, "Duquesne Light is pleased to provide EITC grant funding to the Human Services Center

Corporation in support of its youth programs. These successful programs, which include after school and summer enrichment learning activities, provide students from economically distressed communities in the Mon Valley with opportunities that they would otherwise be unable to experience."

"Thanks to partners like Duquesne Light, the HSCC is able to continue its award-winning youth programs for 350 youth in the Mon Valley," according to Dave Coplan, HSCC Executive Director.



Duquesne Light staff also support the HSCC with regular Days of Service, particularly assisting with fixing and updating the youth programs playground



2015 Free Tax Service Brings Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars Back to the Mon Valley

Around \$600,000 was returned to the Mon Valley community through the annual free tax program at the Human Services Center Corporation (HSCC)! The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, provided by HSCC and the United Way's Money In Your Pocket (MIYP) Coalition, partnered with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), had another successful tax filing season this year.

Arwen Lavengood Davis, Operations and Special Projects Director at the HSCC and Site Coordinator for the VITA program said, "The HSCC is very excited about the work we did to assist the Mon Valley. We returned an average of over \$40,000 in refunds to the community – per week! Our partners at the United Way, Just Harvest, the IRS, Mon Valley Initiative, State Senator Jim Brewster's Office, and the City of Duquesne were all instrumental in the success of this year's program and we are highly thankful for their assistance and support."

The HSCC has been providing the free tax service for over 20 years and this year's program volunteers completed nearly 500 federal returns, with 14 volunteer

preparers and greeters bringing hundreds of thousands of dollars in refunds to the taxpayers in the Mon Valley region.

The VITA program offers free tax assistance to low-income individuals – anyone that is within the income guidelines can have their taxes done completely free of charge by trained and certified tax preparers. The HSCC's tax site is located in Turtle Creek, but also has free tax two-day clinics in Homestead, Duquesne, and McKeesport.

One taxpayer said, "I am extremely pleased with the service that was provided! All the volunteers I dealt with were personable, as well as thorough." Another taxpayer commented, "It feels really great to get this much of a refund! I'm going to pay bills and rent. I'm not working right now, but am looking for a job. This will help keep me until I get a job again. I was also able to get help signing up for a food pantry. What a good service!"

Arwen Lavengood Davis continued, "Our volunteers have consistently shown how amazing they are at both preparing taxes and relating to the taxpayers.

We are so proud of them and the work they do for our community – without our volunteers, this program would be unable to run. Thank you!"

Tax preparers this year included Davis, as well as Amelia Thorne, HSCC Site Coordinator, and Barbara Campbell, Challin Dougherty, Denise Evans, Peggy Flowers, Lou Gerthoffer, Pete Hoysan, Sue Keane, Diane DeLuca, Peggy Leard, Meg Papa, Ralph Santoliquido, and Rose Walker. Volunteer Greeters included Diane Mignogna and Bryan Nemanic. Other individuals who were instrumental to the program were Kathy Simon, Ursula Campbell-Escalante, and Mallory Clark.

The HSCC is currently looking for volunteers for next year's tax season. If you are interested in an enjoyable volunteer experience that has high impact in the community, please email Arwen Lavengood Davis at adavis@hsc-cmvpc.org or call 412-829-7112.

If you have not yet completed your taxes, there is still help available. You are able to call the United Way helpline, 211, for assistance.

Volunteer tax preparers, Meg Papa (left) and Rose Walker (right), prepare tax returns for taxpayers for free at the Mon Valley Initiative tax clinic in Homestead.



Advancing Entrepreneurship in the Mon Valley: Programs for Entrepreneurs

Make It Happen in the Mon Valley: Do you want to start your own business but do not know if it is right for you? Do you have an idea for a business but do not know where to start? "Make It Happen in the Mon Valley" is designed to help you determine if starting a business is right for you and how to begin searching for the "right" business for you. Make it Happen in the Mon Valley is sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh's University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR), Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence (IEE), and Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and is scheduled for May 28, 2015 from 5:30-7:30 PM at the Carnegie Library of Homestead (510 E. 10th Avenue, Munhall, PA 15120).

The First Step: Mechanics of Starting

a Small Business: The First Step is designed for individuals who have never operated their own business or who want to take it from their garage to a storefront. The First Step will help you learn the steps necessary to start a new business and how to avoid some common pitfalls. The First Step is sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh's University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR), Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence (IEE), and Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and is scheduled for June 4, 2015 from 5:30-7:30 PM at the Carnegie Library of Homestead (510 E. 10th Avenue, Munhall, PA 15120).

The Second Step: Creating a Business Plan: Successful business owners have a vision and develop a plan to achieve their vision. The

Second Step will help you develop a business plan, a tool successful business owners use to guide their businesses' growth. The Second Step is sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh's University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR), Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence (IEE), and Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and is scheduled for June 11, 2015 from 5:30-7:30 PM at the Carnegie Library of Homestead (510 E. 10th Avenue, Munhall, PA 15120).

Light refreshments will be offered. There is no cost to attend; however, pre-registration is required. To register for any of these workshops, please call 412-624-3095 or email iee@innovation.pitt.edu. For more information visit <http://monvalleyentrepreneur.pitt.edu>.

The HSCC Welcomes A New Staff Member

The HSCC is pleased to announce the addition of a new Community Outreach and Office Manager – Mallory Clark. Mallory has been an intern at the HSCC with the Mon Valley Providers council for the last year, and has earned her Masters in Social Work in mid-April.

She has organized a variety of activities throughout her internship including the Community

Resource Fair, the How to Get a Job and Keep It event, housing and health related seminars, a poverty simulation for the McKeesport Area School District, and a variety of meetings, surveys, and activities.

Mallory will have a range of responsibilities across the program areas at the HSCC and will ensure efficient and effective day-to-day operation of the office, as well as

playing a significant role in community outreach and programming.

With the addition of Mallory, there are 10 full-time staff members at the Human Services Center. Of these 10 staff, nine (9) came to the HSCC through an internship or part-time position. The HSCC team looks forward to continuing their work in Mon Valley communities.

CCAC BOYCE CAMPUS HOSTS JOB FAIR & COLLEGE EXPO WEDNESDAY APRIL 8, 2015 9:00AM-1:00PM

Boyce Campus Job Placement & Career Services Department will host a Job Fair and College Expo on Wednesday April 8, 2015 at Boyce Campus.

Over 40 employers and colleges will meet with interested students and the general public to share with them the positions currently available with their companies or training programs available through their college. Companies with summer employment opportunities will also be represented.

A panel of Monroeville Chamber Members will hold a workshop entitled "Don't Let Your Past Catch Up With Your Future" from 10:45-11:30 at the Boyce Theater. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. Please registers with pnichols@ccac.edu or kfennessey@monroevillechamber.org

Rainbow Kitchen Community Services Personal Paths Case Management Program

Are you ready to take charge of your life? Are you seeking employment? Would you like to secure better employment? Do you need training or education to obtain employment? Would you like support, guidance and referrals to help you meet your goals?

If you want to take charge of your life, and are ready to make changes to become self-sufficient but are not sure how to do it, the Personal Paths Program may be exactly what you need. The program case manager will meet with you at least twice a month to help

you set goals, offering the support, guidance and referrals needed to achieve your goals such as: securing or finding better employment, training/education, budgeting, finding affordable housing, home ownership, having food in your home, child care, applying for food stamps, help with health care and prescriptions, drug/alcohol issues, mental health issues, family concerns, and parenting issues.

To join the Personal Paths Program you need to have an employment based goal, live in

Allegheny County (outside the City of Pittsburgh) and be at or below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level (a household of 1 can have income up to \$14,713, a household of 2 up to \$19,913).

If you have questions or would like more information about the Personal Paths Program contact: Renee Conte at (412) 464-1892 or email renee.conte@rainbowkitchen.org.

This program is funded in part by a grant provided by the PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development



Free Nutritious Meals For Kids Available All Summer Long!

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) ensures that low-income children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session. This summer, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) plans to serve more than 200 million FREE meals to children 18 years of age and under at approved SFSP sites all over the country. SFSP was created to ensure that children in low-income areas could continue to receive nutritious meals during long school vacations, when they do not have access to school lunch or breakfast.

In Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Department of Education administers the Summer Food Service Program and works with a host of community organizations offering meals for children

in community settings.

Each year neighborhood based organizations like libraries, schools, places of worship, day camps and park and recreation departments apply to become host sites often offering summer meals in addition to their other youth programs.

Southwestern Pennsylvania Food Security Partnership, an initiative of Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, United Way's 211 and a host of other organizations are working to get the word out to families throughout our region to ensure meals are available for every child desiring one.

As a parent or someone involved with youth you can play an important role by encouraging your

children to participate in the Summer Feeding sites in your area. There are no papers to fill out or questions asked. Meal sites and times vary as the school year ends and the summer begins. To find a location in your area call United Way's 211 or visit the USDA's Summer Food Rocks website at www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks. New sites will be added throughout the summer so it's important to call regularly once school is out in your area.

To get information on other food assistance programs visit the Food Bank's website at www.pittsburghfoodbank.org/gethelp or call the United Way's 211.

Please help us ensure that no child goes hungry this summer.



GREATER PITTSBURGH
community
food bank



MEMBER OF
FEEDING
AMERICA

PENNSYLVANIA
2-1-1
Southwest
Powered by United Way



Property Tax/Rent Rebate Applications Available at State Senator Jim Brewster's Offices

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters. Only half of Social Security is included in total yearly income.

State Senator Jim Brewster urges individuals to see if they are eligible for this Lottery funded rebate program. All homeowners and renters who received rebates last year should have received their 2014 application form in the mail. If you have not received your application or are not sure if you qualify, contact one of his local offices today at 412-380-2242 or 412-664-5200 and they will help you determine your eligibility. If you have received your application and need help with filing, visit either of his district offices listed below or his monthly satellite office at the Human Services Center the first Wednesday of each month from 1pm-4pm, with required paperwork, for assistance.

Applications are also available online at www.revenue.state.pa.us or by calling 1-888-222-9190.

The rebate filing deadline for Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications is June 30th.

MONROEVILLE OFFICE
One Monroeville Center
3824 Northern Pike • Suite 1015
Monroeville, PA 15146
Phone: (412) 380-2242
Fax: (412) 380-2249

McKEESPORT OFFICE
201 Lysle Boulevard • Suite 100
McKeesport, PA 15132
Phone: (412) 664-5200
Fax: (412) 664-5202

Also Available at State Senator Brewster's Offices: PA 2015 Adult Trout Stocking Books

Stop by one of Senator Jim Brewster's District Offices for a schedule today! For more information you may also visit <http://www.fishandboat.com>.

The HSCC Thanks South University Volunteers!

The Human Services Center Corporation (HSCC) is thankful for recent volunteers from South University, who have contributed 15 volunteers over multiple days and thousands of dollars in holiday gifts. Arwen Lavengood Davis, Operations and Special Projects Director, said, "South University has been an amazing supporter of our agency over the last few months. We are so thankful for this partnership and look forward to many more opportunities in the future. It's amazing that the organization is so willing to give back to the community - we are grateful!"





DO YOU WANT TO HELP THE MON VALLEY PROVIDERS COUNCIL?

The Mon Valley Providers Council conducts its Annual Fund Drive every January through September (contributions are accepted throughout the year).
The Annual Fund Drive seeks to raise \$15,000 each year.

All contributions to the Mon Valley Providers Council are tax-deductible and help achieve outcomes for residents of 37 Mon Valley communities.

Family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers are among the thousands of residents assisted by the Mon Valley Providers Council sponsored programs. The MVPC has provided countless people with linkages to more and better jobs, housing, family support, youth enhancement opportunities, and many other much needed services.

Think about some of the Mon Valley Providers Council sponsored services you just read about in this edition. Ask yourself, do I want to help continue these services for people in the Mon Valley? If the answer is yes, then make a donation.

With your tax-deductible support of the Annual Fund Drive for the Mon Valley Providers Council, area agencies can continue to collaborate to achieve better lives for people in the Mon Valley. Your generous investment in the MVPC can be put to work in your community to assist those in need, and also help leverage and attract other resources.

We need YOUR support to continue helping people!

Please use the form on this page to make your tax-deductible check payable to the Mon Valley Providers Council, and return to:
MVPC Annual Fund
C/O Human Services Center
519 Penn Avenue
Turtle Creek PA 15145

All contributors will be recognized each year in the MVPC's annual report (January Communicator in the Daily News).
Thank you for your generous support!

Amount of Donation: \$ _____
Name: _____
Business (if applicable): _____
Address: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____
Phone Number: _____

Memorial or honor donations may be made to the Annual Fund. This is an excellent opportunity to recognize someone's achievement, or to honor an individual's contributions in their life. Please mark the appropriate space below if this contribution is for either purpose:

_____ in honor of: _____
_____ in memory of: _____