

# COMMUNITIES THAT CARE<sup>®</sup>

# NETWORK NEWS



January 11, 2007

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

*January 11, 2007*

*Meeting Topics:*

- 21st Century SKILLS College Afterschool Program
- SPOTLIGHT: CHIP Program
- Black History Month at Library
- Chester Youth Collaborative
- Breakout Session: Helping Us to Help Students

*The next meetings of the CTC Network:*

**February 8, 2007**

**March 8, 2007**

**9am to 11am**

SE Conference Room, 1st Floor  
Crozer-Community Hospital  
2600 West 9th Street, Chester

*For more information:*

Neilda Mott, CTC Network Director  
Stephanie Scappa-Hall, Asst. Program Director

Phone 610-364-1212  
Fax 610-364-1563  
Email [CTC@chestereducation.org](mailto:CTC@chestereducation.org)  
Web [www.chestereducation.org](http://www.chestereducation.org)  
Directory: (Sign in as a guest)  
<http://delcoresources.webexone.com>

*Sponsored through the  
PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency  
(PCCD)*

Stephanie Scappa Hall, Assistant Program Director, Chester Education Foundation (CEF), reviewed activities for 21<sup>st</sup> Century SKILLS College's three sites, Columbus Elementary School, Smedley Middle School, and Chester High School. High school students have access to drop-in homework help and tutoring Mondays through Thursdays. Activities at Columbus and Smedley run five days a week. This year the Smedley program will focus on homework help and tutoring, plus a variety of clubs and activities. Students at Columbus work with teachers and teaching assistants on themed activities around language arts, math, or nutrition on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Mondays and Fridays bring volunteers to both programs with enrichment and special features.

Stephanie praised the "great volunteers," especially students from Swarthmore College and Widener University, who work with the after-school program. In the past month volunteers have done tutoring and led activities on careers, leadership, and cosmetology, a middle-school offering popular with boys as well as girls. Line dancing is very popular with the high school crowd.

In the past month Columbus students with perfect attendance went on a trip to see "Happy Feet." All students went to a farm, where they took a hayride, met animals, and tried to adopt a dog. Activities for this month's theme will focus on service in honor of Martin Luther King Day.

Smedley students have been acquiring financial literacy, playing a stock market game and developing small businesses which will enable them to make and keep some money. Smedley students also enjoy a weekly café, a chance for supervised free time. At first, the café was open to all for a half-hour on Thursday afternoons. Now students must earn points to gain entry. Each day a student shows up, s/he gets five points. Additional points earned through activities garner free snacks and beverages. Points can be lost for disobeying rules: after the second day of the new scheme, no points had been lost.

Space is still available in all three programs. For an application or for more information, please call Stephanie at 610.859.6011.



*The CTC Spotlight is a feature intended to help the network learn more about the resources in our community. This month's spotlight is on the CHIP, Children's Health Insurance Program.*

**Cathy Judge Fizzano, Associate Vice President for Government and Community Relations, Mercy Health Corporation of Southeast PA**, gave a detailed description of the CHIP program on behalf of the Task Force on Insuring Delaware County Children Today. Members of the task force, which continues to grow, include insurers, providers, and government: Aetna, AmeriChoice, Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, Delaware County Medical Society, Delaware County Intermediate Unit (DCIU), ChesPenn Health Service, Crozer-Keystone Health System, Keystone Health Plan East, Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital, and the Riddle Health System. The purpose of the task force is to increase the number of Delaware County children with healthcare coverage and to raise awareness of services and programs available through the state. Statistics developed by a 2004 PA Insurance Department study show 133,000 uninsured children statewide, with 108,000 eligible for Medicaid or CHIP. Statistics for uninsured children in Delaware County are not available, but 37,000 are currently on Medicaid, with 5,500 enrolled in CHIP.

CHIP, which covers any uninsured child regardless of income, provides comprehensive, government-sponsored health care for families that earn too much to qualify for welfare programs, said Cathy. The program primarily helps working and transitional families, those in which a parent has lost a job and is looking for employment. As of January, eligibility requirements have been decreased to make the insurance more widely available, and the same application form can be used for Medicaid and CHIP. Applications of families ineligible for Medicaid will be automatically passed on to CHIP. Similarly, if kids are eligible for Medicaid, CHIP will make sure their applications are transferred to the Medicaid program for enrollment. Applicants must provide pay stubs or otherwise prove income.

Cathy listed the criteria and income guidelines for applying:

- Families with income under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), for example a family of four earning \$40,000, receive free CHIP: no co-pays, no premiums. Children must be US citizens and Pennsylvania residents, not be eligible for Medicaid

or have any other health insurance, and be under age 19.

- Families with income between 200% and 300% of FPL, for example a family of four earning \$60,000, receive low-cost subsidized CHIP with low co-payments and premiums. Children must meet the same requirements as for free CHIP. In addition, applicants must show that their child has been uninsured for six months unless the child is under age two, has lost health benefits because a parent has lost a job, or is moving from another public insurance program.
- Families with income above 300% of FPL receive full-cost CHIP, and are required to pay co-payments and full-cost CHIP premiums. Children must meet the same requirements as for free and low-cost CHIP. In addition, families must show that private coverage was denied due to a pre-existing condition or was not affordable to the family, which happens when coverage is more than 10% of family income or premium cost is more than 150% of the CHIP premium.

Cathy stressed the importance of letting people, especially people who have lost jobs, know about CHIP. She said that Governor Rendell has a five-year goal of enrolling 67,000 more eligible children. In addition, CHIP is committed to retaining and re-enrolling eligible children at renewal time.

CHIP coverage is provided through contracts with three insurance companies: Aetna, AmeriChoice, and Keystone. The task force does not promote any particular insurance carrier, but continually strives to simplify the application process. Phone numbers for carriers are as follows: Aetna, 800-822-2447; AmeriChoice, 877-289-1917; and Keystone Health Plan East, 800-464-5437. Additional information is available at [www.chipcoverspakids.com](http://www.chipcoverspakids.com), and online applications can be submitted using COMPASS, [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us). Paper applications are also available. To call for an application or for more information, dial 800-986-KIDS.

In response to questions, Cathy noted that CHIP information is available in Spanish. Children born in the United States are eligible for coverage, even if their parents are illegal immigrants. All newborns are immediately registered for the program. CHIP does not report income data it collects to other government agencies, so parents who are paid under the table and whose employers do not provide documentation can apply. Cathy said she would alert staffers who handle applications to these concerns. Cathy also noted that Mercy Hospital works with parents who bring their children to the ER to start the insurance application process. It can take the state three weeks to process a CHIP

application, with slightly more time for Medicaid; nonetheless a decision should be available within a month of application, so a child will be covered for any care received during that month.

At the beginning of her presentation, Cathy mentioned her work with Mercy Healthcare, in collaboration with Crozer. She also serves on a workforce investment board whose youth council annually honors people in three categories—youth, adult, and organizational—for going beyond what is expected and making an impact for change. For information on this award, healthcare initiatives, and CHIP, call Cathy at 610.567.5619.



**Kim Braun, Head of Reference and Adult Services at J. Lewis Crozer Library**, announced a lecture series in honor of Black History Month. The series, funded by a grant from the PA Humanities Council, will feature three speakers. Temple University Professor Dr. Nilgun Anadolu-Okur will present, “From Slavery to Freedom: Pennsylvania’s Role in the Development of the Underground Railroad,” on Tuesday, February 13, at 6:00 p.m. WRTI personality and host of the jazz history program “The Historical Approach to the Positive Music” Harrison Ridley, Jr., will speak on the role of music and theaters in the Harlem Renaissance on Tuesday, February 27, at 6:00 p.m. The following evening, Wednesday, February 28, also at 6:00 p.m., storyteller Linda Y. Goss will lead an interactive, family friendly program on the African-American storytelling tradition. She will show participants how to do storytelling in this tradition. All events are free.

The library will also offer a special class on how to use a database of African-American history. The class will meet at 4:00 p.m. on two Fridays, February 2 and 16. Other databases, including practice for the GED and SAT, are also available. All databases in the library system may be accessed either on site or from home via [www.delcolibraries.org](http://www.delcolibraries.org). A library card is required. Parents must be present and provide information and ID in order for a child under 17 to get a card. Kim said she would check to see if children can bring in photocopies of parents’ documentation instead. She is available for on-site presentations on use of the African-American and other databases upon request. For information or to register for the lecture series or database class, call Kim at 610.494.3454. Those interested in the database class should be comfortable with a keyboard and mouse.



**Janet Riley Ford** gave a brief update on activities of the **Chester Youth Council (CYC)**. The council consists of an Advisory Council whose 12 members represent anchor institutions in Delaware County; a Steering Committee, also with 12 members representing the CYC as a whole; a Community Council whose 12 members represent the Chester community; a Youth Council of 30 youth aged 12-22; and 14 grant-funded Youth Serving Organizations (YSO’s). New organizations are eligible to apply for YSO status, which includes a \$5,000 grant, and support in building capacity. Four mandatory trainings a year are offered through the United Way Center for Youth Development. Training this year will focus on engaging older youth.

CYC made a major effort during the past year to centralize communication. It now publishes *The Bridge*, a newsletter; has a website that can be accessed at <http://cyc.crozer.org>; and has established a listserv, which can be accessed at [chesteryouthcollaborative@yahoogroups.com](mailto:chesteryouthcollaborative@yahoogroups.com). For more information, contact Janet at 610.497.7422.



Because the CTC Update comes out two or three weeks after each meeting—often too late for spreading the word about many activities—a project is under way to gather information in advance. As part of this project, CTC members were asked to form **breakout groups** and share information about programs they knew would be taking place in the year ahead. Members listed both one-time and ongoing programs, from Widener’s alternative spring break to Breakfast with Santa. Collection of information is ongoing, with Stephanie coordinating this project. If you have ideas for programs that should be listed in an expanded Upcoming Events section, please email Stephanie at [sscappa@chestereducation.org](mailto:sscappa@chestereducation.org) or call her at 610.859.6011.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*To accommodate all the important and interesting information to be shared, CTC meetings begin promptly at 9:00 am. Please arrive a few minutes early and take advantage of the networking opportunities.*

**Widener University** has a full day of programming scheduled for the annual **Martin Luther King Day of Service**. Morning activities will take place at the Salvation Army, 151 W. 15<sup>th</sup> Street. They include the collection of “soup and sock” donations (10:00 a.m.-noon), a roundtable discussion on “Daring Leadership” lead by Dr. A. Dorsey (10:00-11:45 a.m.), curriculum instruction by Dr. A. Cavin (10:00-11:45 a.m.), a luncheon featuring a performance by

members of the Chester Children's Chorus (12:00-12:45 p.m.), and a walk to the site of Crozer Seminary plus presentation by keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Johnnie Monroe, Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh. The afternoon (2:00-5:00 p.m.) will bring a community Speak Out, an art exhibition, Training for Change facilitation, health screening, and community presentations. In the evening (7:00-8:30 p.m.) a closing celebration will feature the Widener Gospel Choir, interpretive dance by DESIRE, presentation of the Martin Luther King Spirit Award, and presentation of awards to essay contest winners. The Martin Luther King essay contest is open to all ninth graders enrolled in Chester Upland School district. For registration forms or for more information on any activities, call Ashley Pyne at 610.499.4562 or email [ashleypyne@mail.widener.edu](mailto:ashleypyne@mail.widener.edu).



**Social Work Consultation Services (SWCS)** will once again run **Families Together**, a free parenting program for Chester families with children 6-11 years old. Dinner, prizes, and fun are provided. The program begins January 22 and runs through March 26, 6:00-8:00 p.m., at the SWCS offices in Community Hospital. *Through a special Chester Weed and Seed initiative, the residents of the W&S target area, Highland Gardens, Buckman Village and Wellington Ridge, have spaces available for their families.* This free opportunity for families to dine together and learn from each other has proven to be so popular that many families want to rejoin. For more information or to register, please call Pat Mullen, 610.859.6034.



**Catholic Social Services** offers **The 3 R's of Budgeting: Responsibility, Reality, Resources**, a program focused on money management and self-empowerment. Babysitting, snacks, and incentives are provided. The free program runs three Fridays, January 12, 19, and 26, from 9:00 a.m.-noon. For more information or to register, call Lisa at 610.626.6550.



**Chester Microenterprise Partnership (CMP)** will hold its **Business Readiness Workshop** on Tuesday, January 23, at 6:00 p.m. followed by a 12-week **Business Development Workshop** series starting Tuesday, January 30, 6:00 p.m. The sequence will repeat in the spring, with Business Readiness on Tuesday, April 17 and Business Development starting on Tuesday, April 24. Participation in the Business Readiness Workshop before taking Business Development is strongly encouraged. CMP will also start offering free tax preparation on Monday, February 5. Appointments are required. CMP is located at 23 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,

Chester. For more information, or to register, call Tracey or Toni at 610.499.9184.



**Delaware County Suicide Prevention/Awareness Task Force** will hold its general membership meeting on Thursday morning, January 25, at DCIU, 200 Yale Avenue, Morton. Registration and continental breakfast will start at 8:30 a.m., with a planning session at 9:00, and a panel discussion at 10:30. The panel, "How does a community work together to prevent suicides and help those whose lives are effected by the suicide of a friend or family member," will include Delco District Attorney Mike Green; Kevin P. Caputo, MD, Chair of the Department of Psychiatry, Crozer Chester Medical Center; Leslie Lipson, Holcomb Behavioral Health; and Mary Ellen Carpenter, Survivors of Suicide, Inc. For more information, email [dmckeighan@comcast.net](mailto:dmckeighan@comcast.net).



**BOKAMOSA Youth Theater**, a South African troupe, will perform Thursday, January 25, 7:00 p.m., at Chester Eastside Ministries, 420 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Chester. Members of the troupe will perform a short play, "Won't Happen to Me," talk with the audience about their lives, and end the evening with traditional South African music and dance. The singers and dancers live in Wintervelt, an area faced with 60 percent unemployment, a 25 percent HIV infection rate, inadequate schools, and intermittent running water and electricity. BOKAMOSA was created to provide an alternative to a life of crime and despair. All are invited to experience the faith, courage, and musical gifts that have helped members of this troupe transform their lives. Sponsored in collaboration with Pendle Hill Quaker Center for Study and Contemplation. Free will offering will be taken. For more information, call Rev. Bernice Warren, 610.872.4812.



The **Delaware County Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition's** next meeting will take place at its usual fourth Friday time, January 26 at 9:30 a.m. at DCIU, 200 Yale Avenue in Morton. For more information, call Dianne Butera at 610.497.7676.



Registration for the **2007 Miss Chester Pageants** will take place Wednesday, January 31, at 5:00 p.m. at the Chester Community Room, One Fourth Street. Young ladies 3-18 years of age are eligible. Registrants are required to bring a non-returnable color photo up to 8"x10". There is also a \$25.00 fee. Registrants are asked to wear a pink blouse, sweater, or shirt, as photos will be taken. To be eligible, young ladies must live in Chester, Toby Farms, Upland, or

Chester Township, or attend a school in the Chester Upland School District. In addition, contestants must not be married or have ever been married, must not be with child or have given birth to a child, and must not have been convicted of a crime. For more information, contact Pageant Director Desiree Potts, 610.800.2453.



The Bachmann Project is launching **Anna's Place**, a hospitality center at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Norris. Volunteers are needed to clean, paint, and fix up the center from late January through early March. For more information, contact Sister Mary Peter Kerner at 610.872.2175 or [pkerner@osfphila.org](mailto:pkerner@osfphila.org).



**Free tax preparation** for those earning under \$40,000 will be available at J. Lewis Crozer Library starting Monday, February 12, from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Please call to register and make an appointment, 610.494.3454. Free tax preparation is provided through the PathwaysPA VITA program.



The quarterly **CTC Regional Meeting** will be held in Norristown on February 26. The topic will be gang data. For more information contact Neilda Mott at 610.364.1212 or [nmott@chestereducation.org](mailto:nmott@chestereducation.org).



Widener University's **Chester Alternative Spring Break** is looking for agencies to host faculty and staff volunteers during the week of March 5-9. Please call Ashley Pyne, 610.499.4562 for information or to host a volunteer.



The **National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW)** Chester Chapter will host a Wine and Cheese networking program on Friday, March 23, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. at Chatham Estates Senior Village, 1701 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Chester. This is a fun event where people share information, bring friends and make new ones. For more information, please call Dawn C. Lucas, 610.283.3813, or Joi Hopkins, 610.586.3637. NABSW also has an ongoing re-gifting program, and is collecting unwanted or unused Christmas gifts for children. Call Dawn Lucas for details.



**Homeless children** are entitled to a free and safe education. Contact Denise Arthur, Chester Upland School District, 610.447.3610 or [darthur@chesteruplandsd.org](mailto:darthur@chesteruplandsd.org), to make sure your clients are getting everything they are entitled to.



The Center Foundation's **Young Parent Support Network**, a mentoring program for pregnant and parenting teens, is looking for caring and committed volunteer mentors. For more information, call Maura O'Brien, 610.565.6171, email [maura@theCF.org](mailto:maura@theCF.org), or visit [www.thecenterfoundation.org](http://www.thecenterfoundation.org).



Chester Youth Collaborative is looking ahead to its **2007 Chester Youth Summit**, May 12 at Widener University. The event is free, and all are welcome. There will be workshops for youth and adults, entertainment, and food. Please plan to attend. For more information, call Janet Riley Ford at 610.497.7422 or email [janet.ford@crozer.org](mailto:janet.ford@crozer.org).



Crozer-Keystone Healthy Start's Public Education Campaign Committee presents "**Infant Safety is Everybody's Business**," an educational program for service providers who work with families, on Tuesday, May 15, from 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Community Hospital. The free program will focus on infant safety, the dangers of bed sharing, and other issues that place infants in danger. Continental breakfast provided. For more information or to register, call 610.497.7460



**State Parent Advisory Council (SPAC)** will hold its annual workshop July 2007 in Seven Springs, PA. Any parent interested in attending should contact Denise Arthur, Chester Upland School District, 610.447.3618.



For up-to-date information on the community, make sure to visit the **Community Resource Directory** at [www.chestereducation.org](http://www.chestereducation.org). Click on "Data Links." Or sign in as a guest at <http://delcoresources.webexone.com>.

## Upcoming Events

**February 2 & 16: Free class on African-American history database**, 4:00 p.m., J. Lewis Crozer Library. Call Kim Braun 610.494.3454.

**February 7 & 8: Catholic Social Services Systematic Training for Effective Parenting and Systematic Training for Effective Parenting of Teens** programs begin. Call 610.626.6550 to register.

**February 12: Free VITA tax preparation** appointments available at J. Lewis Crozer Library. Call 610.494.3454.

**February 13, 27, & 28: Free Black History Month lecture series** on underground railroad, jazz in Harlem, and African-American storytelling at J. Lewis Crozer Library. All events at 6:00 p.m. Call Kim Braun at 610.494.3454.

**February-early March:** Bachmann Center needs volunteers to fix up **Anna's Place**, neighborhood hospitality center. Call Sister Mary Peter Kerner, 610.872.2175.

**February 26: Quarterly CTC Regional Meeting**, Norristown. Call Neilda Mott at 610.364.1212.

**March 23: National Association of Black Social Workers Wine and Cheese networking program**, 6:00-8:30 p.m. Call Dawn C. Lucas, 610.283.3813 or Joi Hopkins, 610.586.3637.

**April 17 & 24: Chester Microenterprise Partnership repeats Business Readiness and Business Development workshop series.** For more information or to register, call Tracey or Toni at 610.499.9184.

**May 12: Chester Youth Collaborative Chester Youth Summit** at Widener University. Call Janet Riley Ford at 610.497.7422.

**May 15: "Infant Safety is Everybody's Business"** program for service providers, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Community Hospital. For more information or to register, call 610.497.7460.

**July: State Parent Advisory Council (SPAC) workshop** in Seven Springs, PA. Any parent interested in attending should call Denise Arthur, 610.447.3618.

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