



Newsletter



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FISHING
DAYS

Summer
2019

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STEP INC. *Employee of the Year*

2018-2019
Fiscal Year

2018-2019 Employee of the Year Nominees



Gretchen Mantle



Nikolina Cleaver



Heather Rhine



Tom Salisbury

Four employees were eligible for the title of STEP's 2018-2019 Employee of the Year. All were recognized throughout the year for outstanding achievement in the workplace: Contract Specialist Gretchen Mantle of STEP Early Learning Resource Center Region 7, Protective Services Case Worker Nikolina Cleaver of STEP Office of Aging, Family Navigator Heather Rhine of STEP Service Navigation, and Database Administrator Tom Salisbury of STEP's Information Technology department.

On June 25, Nikolina Cleaver was named Employee of the Year, receiving a framed award to signify her achievement, along with a \$100 gift card of her choice.





Employee of the Quarter

1st Quarter
2019-2020



Broc is an Accountant in STEP's Fiscal Department. He has shown responsiveness to the rapid evolution of the Fiscal Department structure and has adapted to all of the changes exceptionally. He has been an integral part of creating a strong Fiscal team to support all of the STEP pathways and has volunteered his perspective and knowledge in building that new foundation.

As an Accountant, Broc works closely with the Program Managers of the grants he is responsible for by keeping them informed of their performance to budget, preparing budgets, and reporting in a timely fashion - even when deadlines are changed.

Broc has gone beyond his own job responsibilities in making sure that all tasks were being covered and brought to the attention of the Program Managers, other Accountants, and Chief Financial Officer during the department's transition. He has taken the lead in presenting potential problems and the suitable solutions to those problems. He has also been successful in cross-matching the Office of Aging chart of accounts to the new accounting system, Accufund, required by the Department of Aging, with little instruction or training on the new system and process.



Round Hills Campus

FIRST DAY OF PLAY



Tuesday, June 11 marked the "First Day of Play" at STEP Round Hills Campus as STEP Head Start children and staff set foot on the newly installed play areas for the first time.

This STEP Head Start project was made possible with a \$108,000 grant from the Williamsport Lycoming Community Fund at the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania, which was combined with Head Start funds to install two outdoor play areas.

Both play areas include climbers, water/sand tables, rhythm walls, play houses, and multiple raised garden beds for planting and growing flowers and food. These items provide opportunities for fun and both social and physical development, as they allow play to be combined with learning and growth. "The staff and children are super excited about having two new play areas at the Round Hills facility," said STEP Head Start Director Carolyn Hawk.

It is expected that about 400 STEP Head Start children will utilize the equipment each year. Additionally, their siblings, neighborhood visitors, and children involved in other programs at the site will have access to the play equipment. Over the expected 10-year life span of most equipment, the initial grant will impact at least 4,000 children.



FAMILY FISHING DAYS

STEP Head Start kicked off the start of summer with two Family Fishing Days in partnership with the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission. The events welcomed hundreds of children and their families to Rose Valley Lake on May 19 and Bald Eagle State Park on June 16.

Attendees enjoyed a buffet-style lunch, learned about the fish and fishing equipment, and practiced casting and tying a hook. After discussing safety, the families fished for hours at the catch-and-release events with many children catching their very first fish!

Head Start children each received their own fishing rods and tackle boxes so they can continue to go fishing with their families.

The Family Fishing Day events were made possible by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, STEP Head Start, and event sponsors: Alta, Chief Oil & Gas, LLC, Seneca Resources, and Energy Transfer.



Loyalsock Center for Healthy Aging Groundbreaking

STEP strives to serve diverse individuals, families, and communities, and breaking ground for an expansion of the Loyalsock Township Community Recreation Center will do just that, as the new space will accommodate both older adults and school-aged children.

STEP currently offers its wellness and fitness activities for seniors in the township space. The expansion will allow all Center for Healthy Aging programs – including home-delivered and congregate meals, social activities, education, and more – to be under one roof as other center activities are still being offered at the Loyalsock-Montoursville Center at the Hillside Campus. Loyalsock Township Recreation will also be able to increase its capacity for before- and after-school and summer programs, allowing more children to take part.

Funding for the project came from multiple sources, including the Walter J. Heim Fund and the Williamsport Lycoming Community Fund at the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Department of Aging, Loyalsock Township, Lycoming County, and the STEP Office of Aging. Additionally, the older adults who currently volunteer and utilize the existing facilities are well on the way to meeting their fundraising goal of \$10,000.



Jim Plankenhorn
STEP, Inc.
President & CEO

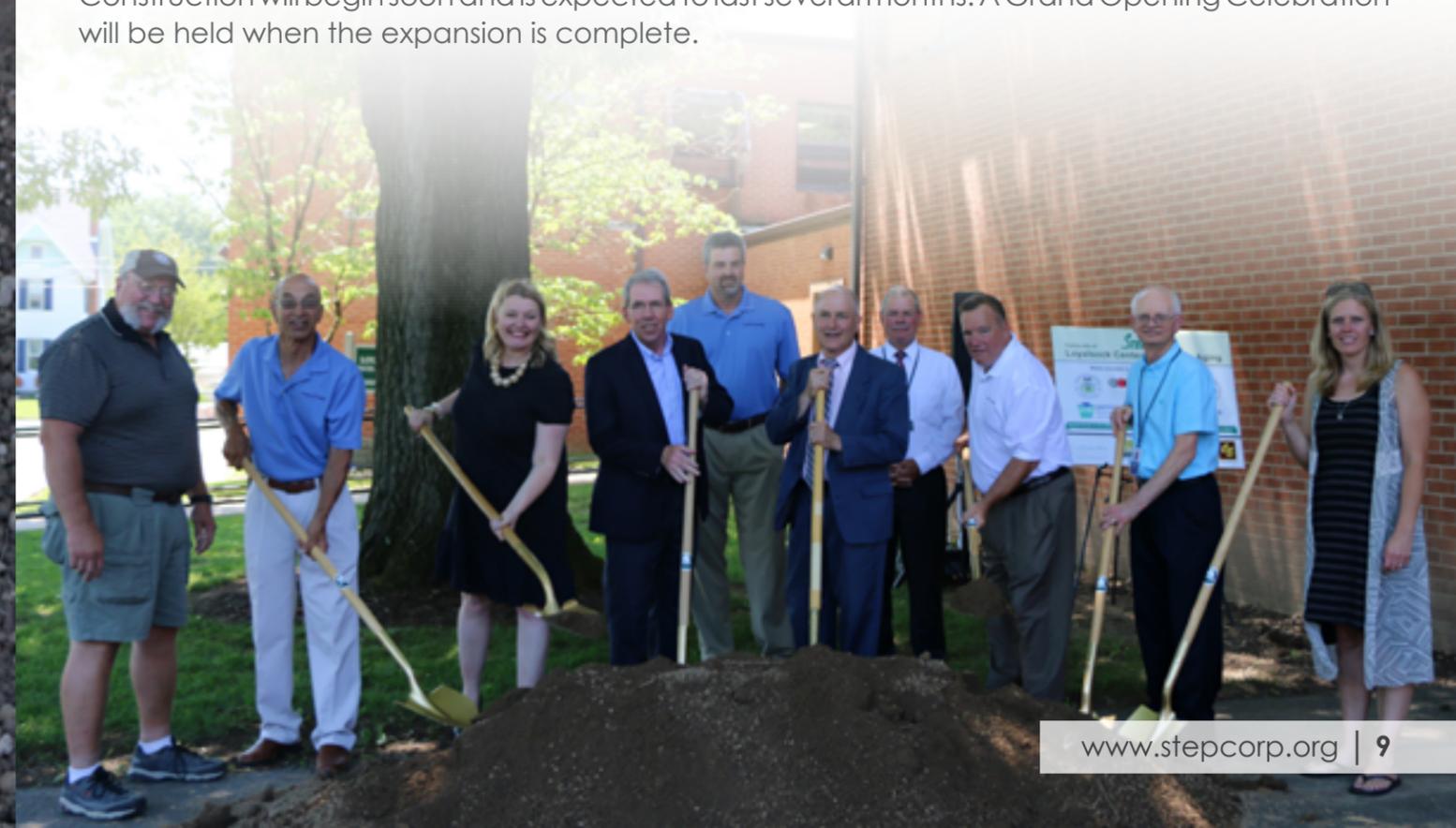


Mary Fischer
STEP Office of Aging
Volunteer



Shannon Lukowsky
Loyalsock Township
Director of Parks & Recreation

Construction will begin soon and is expected to last several months. A Grand Opening Celebration will be held when the expansion is complete.



Retirement Open House Celebrating 43 Years of Service



Long-time STEP employee and Office of Aging Director Fred Shrimp has retired after 43 years of service. Fred's tenure at STEP was celebrated by family, friends, and colleagues from around the state during a retirement open house on Friday, June 28 at the RiverWalk Center.

Fred began his employment with STEP in 1976 as an Outreach Worker. In 1978 he was promoted to the position of Case Worker for the Office of Aging, and in 1982 he was promoted to Social Services Director. Fred became the Director of the STEP Office of Aging in 1998. He made significant contributions to STEP's mission by testifying about the essential changes in adult protective services, developing the Centers for Healthy Aging, and overseeing numerous changes to the long term living strategies of the senior citizens of Pennsylvania. Fred's legacy can be found not just at STEP, but across the state and nationwide.

Please join us in wishing Fred Shrimp a happy retirement!



Mark Your Calendar!



STEP'N Out! Bus Trip: Tioga Downs Tuesday, September 10

Each participant will receive \$30 slot credit and \$10 food incentive.

Brought to you by the STEP Office of Aging, "STEP'N Out!" is a way for individuals age 60+ to experience local and regional history, entertainment, and landmarks. There is a charge for trips, and participants are responsible for food and other expenses. Call your nearest Center for Healthy Aging for more details, including pick-up/drop-off locations.

Color Me Fun Family Run Saturday, September 14

Registration Start Time: 8:30 AM
Race Start Time: 10:00 AM

STEP's Color Me Fun Family Run is a 5K family-friendly race held at the South Williamsport Community Park Complex adjacent to STEP's RiverWalk Center. Register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/SouthWilliamsport/ColorMeFunFamily>

Proceeds of the Color Me Fun Family Run benefit the STEP Early Learning Endowment Fund.



Gift Card Bingo Sunday, November 3

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Clinton County Community Center
124 E. Walnut Street, Lock Haven

Mark your calendars for November 3rd and join us for Gift Card Bingo! Details on purchasing tickets will be available soon!

Proceeds of Gift Card Bingo benefit the STEP Early Learning Endowment Fund.





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