



Newsletter

PBIS Fall Fest



Autumn

2024

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A granite tribute plaque in memory of STEP Founder Bill Nichols, Sr. is now on display at our Williamsport office.

» STEP Board of Directors

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Brenda Nichols
Chairperson | Lindsay Stamm
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- | | |
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| Jim Plankenhorn
President & CEO | Patti Kiessling
Chief Financial Officer |
| Rachelle Abbott
Chief Operations & Planning Officer | |

» Contact STEP



STEP, Inc.
2138 Lincoln Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
570.326.0587

STEP Clinton County Community Center
124 East Walnut Street
Lock Haven, PA 17745
570.858.5800



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www.stepcorp.org



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STEP INC. *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 names 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.



August, September, and October STEP Star award winners are:

Individuals indicated with an asterisk (*) have been nominated more than once.

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Joshua Forrest
Transportation
Shared Ride Driver | Bonnie Burget
Head Start
Teacher Assistant | Jenice Phillips-Harrod
Office of Aging
Care Manager/Assessor | Brenda Haines
Office of Aging
Long Term Care Assessor II |
| Abigail Dabback
Office of Aging
Care Manager/Assessor | Melissa Corlew
Head Start
Education Supervisor | Sade Teel
Office of Aging
Care Manager/Assessor | Nikolina Cleaver
Office of Aging
Social Service Manager |
| Ashley Askey
Head Start
Teacher | Tammy Winder*
Head Start
Teacher Assistant | Jo King
Office of Aging
Care Manager/Assessor | Sunshine Kustaborder
Head Start
Family Advocate |
| Tamara Clay
Head Start
Information Assistant | Ruth Andrews
Transportation
Data Entry Eligibility Specialist | Sarah Mothersbaugh
Office of Aging
Care Manager/Assessor | MaKenzie Schuler
Head Start
Classroom Aide |
| Melissa Edmonds
Head Start
Family Advocate Manager | Nancy Saiers
Head Start
Home-Based Manager | Tytianna Blackstock
Office of Aging
Care Manager/Assessor | Michelle Anderson
Head Start
Teacher Assistant |
| Jessica Renninger
Head Start
Teacher | Trena Paxton
Head Start
Teacher | Amy Heverly
Office of Aging
Social Service Manager | |

The winner of August's gift card drawing was Abigail Dabback!

The winner of September's gift card drawing was Jessica Renninger!

The winner of October's gift card drawing was Sade Teel!



In Memoriam: Carolyn W. Bullock, 88, a proud lifelong resident of Williamsport, died peacefully with family by her side on October 20, 2024.

She was born in Williamsport on November 28, 1935. Carolyn was both honored and proud to commit her time, knowledge, experience, and passion for community service to STEP, Inc. She served for many years on the STEP Office of Aging Advisory Council, being chairperson from 2011-2013, as well as Secretary of the STEP Board of Directors from 1998-2015. In 2012, she received the STEP Volunteer of the Year Award.

Announcing



New President & CEO:



Rachelle A. Abbott

Rachelle Abbott

The STEP Board of Directors announced Rachelle A. Abbott as the new President & Chief Executive Officer of Lycoming-Clinton Counties Commission for Community Action (STEP), Inc.!

Following an extensive search by the STEP Board of Directors, the board appointed Abbott, who has served the agency in various planning and operations capacities since 2011, most recently as Chief Operations & Planning Officer. Abbott will succeed current President & CEO Jim Plankenhorn, who will officially step down on December 28 after nearly 20 years with the nonprofit in a variety of roles.

Prior to her work with STEP, Abbott was the Lead Planner at Lycoming County Department of Planning & Community Development. A native of Dunkirk, New York now residing in Cogan House Township, Abbott holds certification from the American Institute of Certified Planners and attended the University at Buffalo and the University of Toronto.

"It is a great honor to be tasked with moving STEP forward. I think about all the great leaders over the nearly six decades and value the firm foundation the agency is on because of them, including the outgoing President & CEO, James D. Plankenhorn. I greatly appreciate the Board of Directors' confidence in me to lead this incredible organization with a focus on outcome-driven programs and community engagement," said Abbott.



James D. Plankenhorn,
Rachelle A. Abbott



STEP attended the Community Action Association of Pennsylvania's (CAAP) 2024 Annual Conference in Lancaster. Community Action professionals from across Pennsylvania and beyond came together for the dynamic event focused on advancing the collective mission to combat poverty and uplift communities. Participants explored the latest strategies, shared success stories, and built meaningful connections that drive impactful change.





POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORT

2024 PBIS FALL FEST

STEP Head Start's 2024 Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Fall Fest events were held in October to celebrate the season! STEP's Clinton County Community Center had 36 families in attendance from Head Start and Early Head Start on October 2, 2024. STEP's Round Hills Campus saw more than 230 individuals at the event on October 9, 2024.

The events are the yearly kick-off for the PBIS program, which teaches children about emotions and coping skills in order to proactively encourage good behavior.



Many of the activities, including bubble painting and calm down bottles, helped children to practice PBIS strategies. Caregivers are encouraged to carry PBIS into their homes through rewards and various tools. Other activities included Pumpkin Decorating and Fall Family Photos, as well as local police, fire, and EMS personnel with their vehicles.



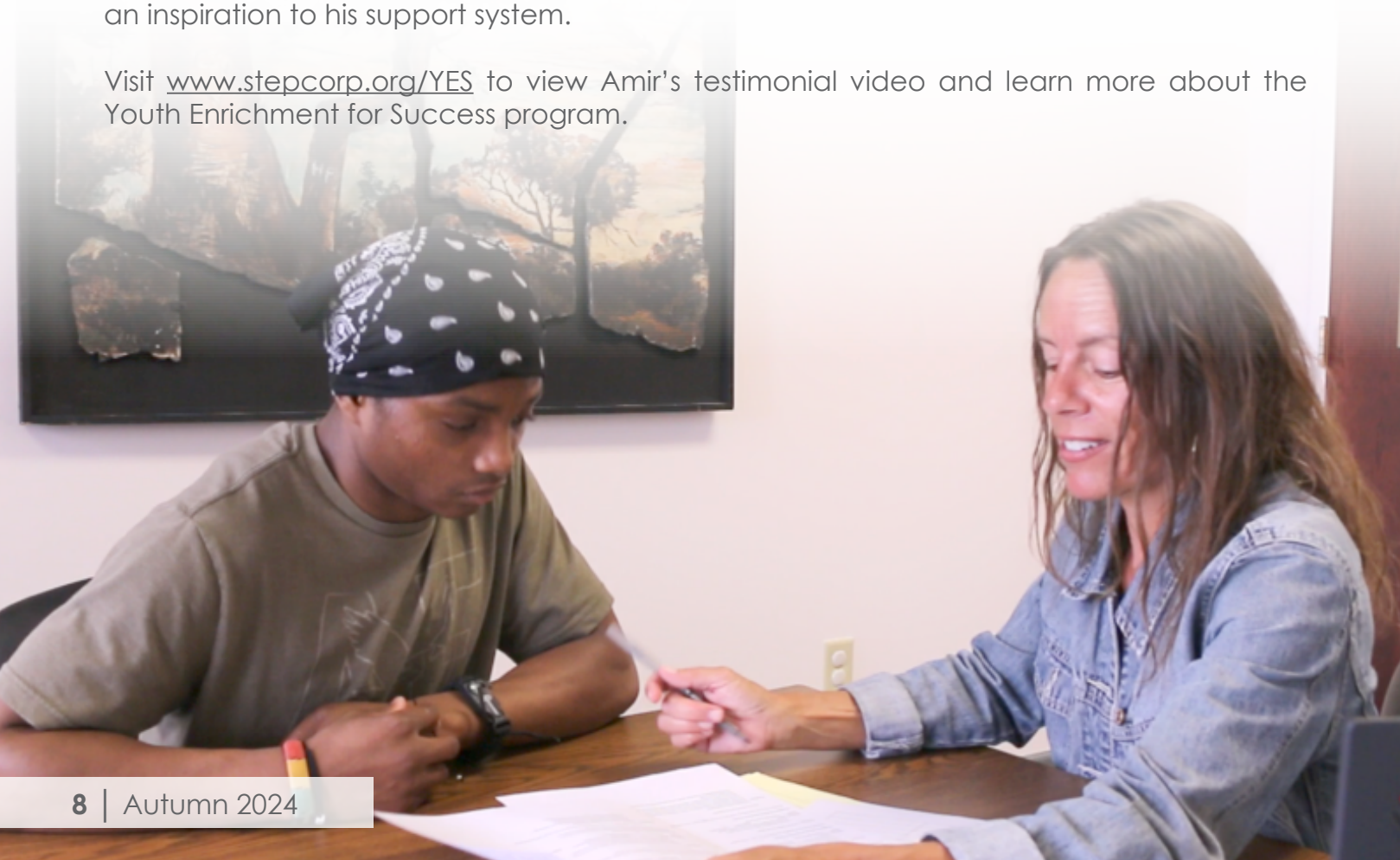
YOUTH ENRICHMENT *for Success!*

Amir enrolled in STEP's Youth Enrichment for Success (YES) program in October of 2023 with three main goals: to graduate high school, to gain employment, and to be a productive member of society. As an 18-year-old high school student, Amir lived with a roommate and paid his own bills. Amir worked with STEP Family Navigator Jessalee Kline to create a resume and participate in mock interviews, which eventually led to a real interview where he obtained employment. Within four weeks of working, Amir was promoted to Assistant Manager. He was able to pay his back rent owed to his landlord through hard work and budgeting.

Unfortunately, during that time, Amir began missing school in order to work full time. His grades suffered, and he became aware of this after multiple attempts at contact by his Family Navigator and the South Williamsport High School Guidance Department. Amir changed his priorities and contacted both his Family Navigator and the the school Guidance Department. Through teamwork and a schedule to make up assignments, as well as continue to work, Amir was able to graduate high school.

Amir is currently working in a field of his interest and plans on continuing his education at Job Corps in Kentucky this summer. Amir's determination and motivation continues to be an inspiration to his support system.

Visit www.stepcorp.org/YES to view Amir's testimonial video and learn more about the Youth Enrichment for Success program.



STEP Completes Second *my muncy* Project

Thanks to the combined efforts of the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania and STEP, you'll be seeing more houses in Muncy that have received exterior improvements. STEP's Housing Rehab program recently completed work on the second property through the "My Muncy" initiative, a program focusing on community appearance and environmental stewardship in the Muncy area.

My Muncy is seeking applicants for the program to continue working through this year and beyond. Eligible customers will receive assistance with improvements to property exteriors and outdoor spaces, such as exterior washing and painting, porch repairs, fence repairs, landscaping (including pruning and dead tree removal), sidewalk repair, and storm water issues.

Acceptance into the program requires an application. Eligible homeowners will receive an exterior assessment to determine the priorities for each property and ensure the needed repairs can be met with available funds. If you are interested in learning more, please contact STEP Housing at 570.601.9657.





INNOVATE AND INTEGRATE: 2024 MTSS AND PBIS ADVANCED IMPLEMENTATION FORUM



STEP Head Start's PBIS team presented at Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network's 2024 Implementation Forum in Hershey. The presentation's topic, Using Videos to Teach PBIS, showcased STEP Head Start's extensive collection of PBIS video resources created to support PBIS implementation for children, families, and staff. The integration of these academic and behavioral supports is essential to fostering positive and effective learning environments.

The three-day conference focused on the seamless integration of Evidence-Based Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to enhance educational outcomes across all age and grade levels. The forum emphasized advanced tier implementation strategies, ensuring that supports are effectively tailored to meet the diverse needs of students. Participants engaged with both local implementers and national experts on a variety of topics designed to improve student outcomes through evidence-based practices.

Schools and programs demonstrating high fidelity in implementing PBIS were also recognized throughout the event. To learn more about how STEP Head Start implements PBIS, visit www.stepcorp.org/PBISatHome.



Mark Your Calendar!



STEP Head Start Mitten Tree Project Now through December 13

STEP Head Start will be collecting infant and child size mittens, gloves, hats, coats, and scarves for Head Start children this year from October 16 through December 13.

If interested in donating, you can send or drop off mittens to:

STEP Head Start | 2138 Boyd St., Williamsport
STEP, Inc. | 2138 Lincoln St., Williamsport
Clinton County Community Center | 124 E. Walnut St., Lock Haven

Santa's Seniors



Santa's Seniors November 18 through December 13

Help us fill bags for seniors! We are focusing on donations of individually wrapped items: snack packs of pudding, gelatin, and/or fruit cups, cereals, macaroni & cheese, snack size packs of crackers, pretzels, chips, and/or cookies, cup of soup, ramen noodles, and breakfast/granola bars.

Donations can be dropped off Monday through Friday from 8:30am until 4:00pm at the following locations:

Backyard Broadcasting | 1685 Four Mile Drive, Williamsport
STEP, Inc. | 2138 Lincoln Street, Williamsport
Clinton County Community Center | 124 E. Walnut St., Lock Haven
East Lycoming Shopper | 1025 PA-405, Hughesville



MLK Day & Dream Week 2025 January 20 through 24

STEP AmeriCorps, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Lycoming College, the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, the James V. Brown Library, and the United Churches of Lycoming County are partnering for a week full of events honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Stay tuned for more information at facebook.com/AmeriCorpsPA



AARP Tax Aide

Appointment preference provided to individuals age 60+ residing in Lycoming and Clinton counties.

Call 570-323-3096 for more information.



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