



Newsletter



STEP Head Start
PBIS Kickoff &
Fall Harvest

Autumn
2019

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& Fall Harvest

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Nichole is STEP's Clinton County Community Center Coordinator in Lock Haven. She is dedicated to STEP's mission and its customers, and is always going above and beyond to ensure the success of STEP's programs.

Nichole is a staple at the Clinton County Community Center (CCCC). She makes everyone who walks in feel important and that they belong. She treats fellow staff with respect and celebrates their successes with them. She is truly a team player and is always willing and able to jump in and help support whatever is needed for the betterment of STEP.

Most recently, with the departure of an informational assistant at the CCCC, Nichole has stepped up to ensure the front desk is covered. In addition, she has adapted to the changes of the building's security system and has been patient and understanding during the process.

Nichole represents STEP at various meetings, including the Clinton County Collaborative Board. She speaks positively of STEP and is a strong agency advocate in the community. Nichole also welcomes the community into the CCCC and does whatever is needed to ensure the external events that occur at the center are coordinated and executed in a professional and diligent manner.

CAAP Self-Sufficiency Award Winner

Joshua Bower



Pictured: Josh Bower with his grandfather and grandmother at the CAAP Self-Sufficiency Awards.

The Community Action Association of Pennsylvania Self-Sufficiency Awards and Annual Conference recognize the significant accomplishments of Self-Sufficiency Award winners while showcasing how Community Action Agencies support a person's journey toward financial stability. Youth Enrichment for Success (YES) program participant Joshua Bower was nominated by STEP, Inc. and was presented with the Self-Sufficiency Award on October 9, 2019.

Josh entered STEP's YES program on August 21, 2018. He worked with a Lead Family Navigator to develop and implement a goal plan which included resume building, improving relationship building skills, graduating high school, employment searching, individual counseling, eliminating involvement with the legal system, continued payment of court fines, and obtaining a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Permit.

Since enrollment with the YES program, Josh attended school regularly and graduated from Compass Academy on May 30, 2019 and Montgomery Area Junior/Senior High School on May 31, 2019. With the assistance of his Family Navigator, Josh created a resume which he used to obtain employment with Ralph Alberts while still enrolled in school. During this time, he attended counseling appointments, addressed building healthy relationships with peers, and continued to meet with his probation officer regularly.

Josh plans on increasing his hours at Ralph Alberts and completing his CDL Permit in order to enhance his skills through his employer. He looks forward to being involved in the workforce and is eager to learn new skills!



Josh Bower at the CAAP Self-Sufficiency Awards, October 2019.



Josh (at right) with Lead Family Navigator, Stacy Bower, at the Compass Academy graduation in May 2019.

STEP Head Start PBIS Kickoff & Fall Harvest



Two PBIS Kickoff and Fall Harvest events were held in October to celebrate the season!

STEP's Clinton County Community Center welcomed over 160 attendees from Head Start families and the public on October 2, 2019. STEP's Round Hills Campus saw more than 300 Head Start children and families at the event on October 10, 2019.



The events are the yearly kick-off for the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program, which teaches children about emotions and coping skills in order to proactively encourage good behavior. Many of the activities, including a PBIS library, pumpkin feeling faces, and calm down bottles, also helped children to practice PBIS strategies. Caregivers are encouraged to carry PBIS into their homes through rewards and various tools.



Other activities included Make a Bee Hat, Pumpkin PlayDoh, Sensory Stations, Make Your Own Beehive, Leaf Rubbing, STEP AmeriCorps Story Corner, Pumpkin Decorating, Face Painting, all while Phoebe, the PBIS mascot, was buzzing around!



During the event at STEP's Round Hills Campus, the community and funders had the opportunity to see two new play areas. The play areas were made possible by a \$108,000 grant from the Williamsport Lycoming Community Fund at the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania, combined with Head Start funds.

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.





STEP hosted the *Color Me Fun Family Run* on Saturday, September 14, at the STEP RiverWalk Center. The race was the second major event held in support of the STEP Early Learning Endowment Fund.

Jersey Shore State Bank, and McCormick Law Firm. Refreshments for the event were courtesy of Mondelez International, Tebb's Farms and Greenhouses, Lycoming Bakery, Neece Paper, Wal-Mart, Giant, and Wegmans.

Families with strollers and walkers/runners of all abilities took to the 5K course, which utilized both the Susquehanna River Walk and the South Williamsport Community Park Complex. Several color stations were set up throughout the course, with volunteers tagging runners with vibrant hues as they passed.

STEP's Early Learning Pathway currently holds Early Head Start, Head Start, and the Early Learning Resource Center for Region 7 (ELRC). Early Head Start and Head Start provide high-quality early learning experiences with skilled professionals, in partnership with parents and communities, at no cost to the families enrolled. The ELRC supports both parents and child care providers, ensuring parents can find the right child care and providers can improve their quality.

In addition to presenting sponsor PMF Industries, sponsors who made the race possible included Frey's Commissary, Dixon AC&R Corp., Weis Markets, Confer PersonalCareHome, Klein & Rizzo CPAs, Inc.,





and



GLEAN FOR GOOD

STEP AmeriCorps & Central Pennsylvania Food Bank's fifth annual "Glean for Good" was held on Saturday, November 2nd at Carpenter's Pumpkin Farm in Linden. A total of 54 volunteers from STEP AmeriCorps, Central PA Food Bank, Girl Scout Troops 40164 and 40088, Lycoming College, Lock Haven University, Lycoming County United Way, and community members came out to help make gleaning a success.

Volunteers collected 4,487 pounds of pumpkins and squash from the fields that would have otherwise gone to waste. The gleaned produce will be distributed to Central PA Food Bank partner agencies through the Fresh Express program, who in turn will distribute to families in need, along with easy and fun nutritious recipes on how to prepare each kind of squash.



"It is through our community partnerships like this, with Carpenter's Pumpkin Farm and STEP AmeriCorps, that we are able to continue to fulfill our mission of fighting hunger, improving lives, and strengthening communities."

- **Travis Berg** | General Manager Northern Tier
Central Pennsylvania Food Bank -



Mark Your Calendar!



Santa's Seniors
Donations accepted through December 13
Volunteer opportunities December 16, 17, 18, 19, & 20

Seniors are often forgotten during the holidays, and many times these Santa's Seniors gift boxes are the only holiday items received by our homebound seniors. From donating nonperishable goods to sorting and counting the items that fill up the boxes, YOU can help in a variety of ways to ensure that each box is a special gift for our local seniors on Christmas.

For more information, contact STEP Office of Aging at 570-323-3096.



STEP Head Start Mitten Tree
Donations accepted through December 13

2019 marks the 15th year of STEP Head Start's Mitten Tree. Each year this project has been able to keep more than 600 children's hands and hearts warm with your generous donations.

STEP Head Start | 2138 Boyd Street, Williamsport
STEP Main Office | 2138 Lincoln Street, Williamsport
Clinton County Community Center | 124 E. Walnut Street, Lock Haven
STEP Round Hills Campus | 136 Grimesville Road, Williamsport

Questions? Contact Jaime Fryer at 570-601-9613.



STEP AmeriCorps
Peace Walk & MLK Day of Service

Saturday, January 18 • 10:00 AM
Pennsylvania College of Technology | 1034 W. 3rd St., Williamsport

The Peace Walk will begin at 10:00 AM at Penn College's Klump Academic Center (ACC Building). The group will walk a mile loop and return to the center for a speaking event in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Monday, January 20 • 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Lycoming College Recreation Center | College Pl., Williamsport

The MLK Day of Service will be held at Lycoming College's Recreation Center. STEP AmeriCorps members and volunteers from the community will be packing food distribution boxes for the "Pack and Share Meal Kit" project.



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