



*Newsletter*



**2023 PBIS  
FALL FEST**



*Autumn*  
**2023**

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2023 PBIS Fall Fest

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# 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 of their choosing.



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

**Broc Haines**  
Fiscal  
Accountant

**April Woodton**  
Head Start  
Teacher

**Janice Rubin**  
Head Start  
Education Supervisor

**Ashley Askey**  
Early Head Start  
Teacher

**Charles Wentzell**  
Transportation  
Lead Operator & Safety Officer

**Melissa Corlew**  
Head Start  
Education Supervisor

**Alexis Bower**  
Housing Options  
Housing Administration Coordinator

**Aron Haefner**  
Administration  
Assistant Operations Officer

**Jessica Ray**  
Administration  
Information Assistant

**Tanya Hower**  
Head Start  
Family Advocate

**Brittney Weaver**  
Head Start  
Early Intervention Mental Health Specialist

**Jessica Kuzio**  
Head Start  
Teacher Assistant Floater

**Nicole Smulligan**  
Head Start  
Family Advocate



**The winner of August's gift card drawing was Broc Haines!**

**The winner of September's gift card drawing was Tanya Hower!**

**The winner of October's gift card drawing was Melissa Corlew!**



Empowering Communities:  
Driving Change Through

*Action*

# 2023 CAAP Conference

STEP attended the Community Action Association of Pennsylvania's (CAAP) 2023 Annual Conference in October. Member agencies throughout the state came together to learn, grow, and create memories for a powerful reminder that we are stronger together, we are empowering communities, and we are driving change through action!



**Pictured from Left:**

**STEP Service Navigation Director  
Raelyn Jackson, STEP Chief  
Operations & Planning Officer  
Rachelle Abbott,  
STEP Executive Assistant  
Jamey Williams,  
STEP Recruitment & Retention  
Specialist Lindsey Wisor,  
STEP Head Start Director  
Carolyn Hawk, and  
STEP Chief Information Officer  
Gene Good.**

STEP had the opportunity to present during the conference. STEP Head Start Director Carolyn Hawk and Chief Operations and Planning Officer Rachelle Abbott joined Pennsylvania Head Start Association's Executive Director Kara McFalls for "Recruiting, Hiring, and Retaining Staff: Our Story from Woes to Wows!" The presentation provided valuable insight into STEP Head Start's journey to become fully staffed using data informed decision making, risk analysis, staff-forward thinking, and customer-centered approach.

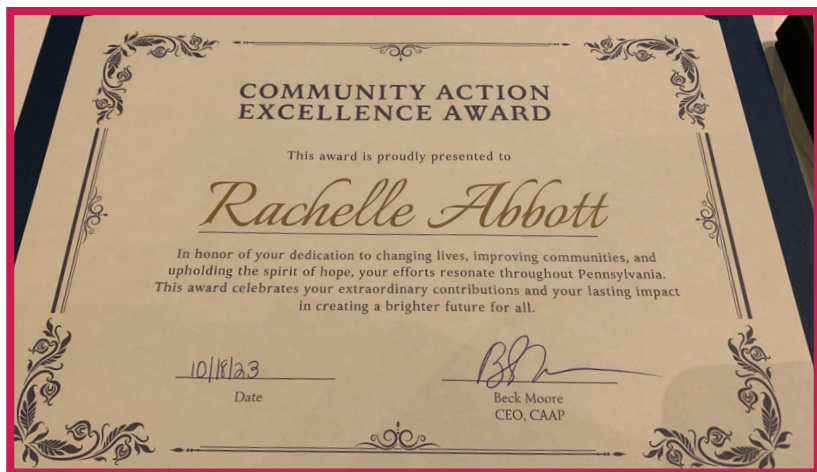


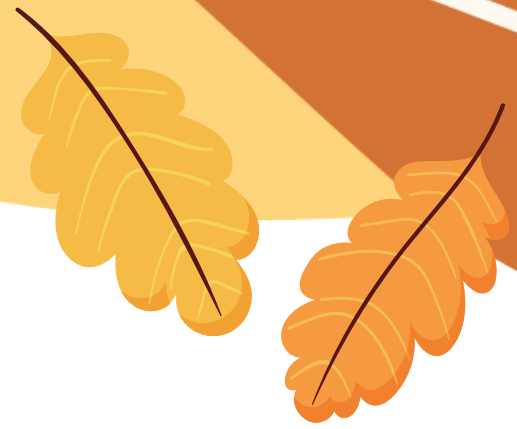
**Pictured above from Left:**  
 STEP Chief Operations & Planning Officer Rachelle Abbott,  
 STEP Head Start Director Carolyn Hawk, and  
 PA Head Start Association Executive Director Kara McFalls.  
**Pictured below: Attendees of the Community Exchange.**

Rachelle Abbott also spoke on "Innovative Community Action Programming" for the CAAP Community Exchange. The session focused on identifying community needs, forming new partnerships, and developing internal and external capacity for Community Action Agencies.



The CAAP also honored Community Action staff during the conference at the first ever CAAPTivating Excellence Awards. STEP Service Navigation Manager Raelyn Jackson was nominated for the CAAP Emerging Excellence Award, and Nichole Miller, STEP Clinton County Community Center Coordinator, was nominated for the CAAP Dependable Difference Maker Award. Additionally, STEP's Chief Operations and Planning Officer, Rachelle Abbott was the recipient of CAAP's Community Action Excellence Award for continued service and contributions to the Community Action Network. Great job team!





POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORT

# 2023 PBIS FALL FEST

STEP Head Start's 2023 PBIS Fall Fest events were held in October to celebrate the season! STEP's Clinton County Community Center welcomed over 90 attendees from Head Start and Early Head Start families on October 4, 2023. STEP's Round Hills Campus saw more than 340 children and families at the event on October 11, 2023.

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 pumpkin feeling faces 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 Make a Bee Hat, Pumpkin PlayDoh, Pumpkin Decorating, Face Painting, and Fall Family Photos, all while Phoebe, the PBIS mascot, was buzzing around!



# STEP Centers for Healthy Aging

## *Activities for individuals age 60+*

STEP Office of Aging's eight Centers for Healthy Aging offer a variety of physical and educational classes throughout Lycoming and Clinton counties.

Each Center for Healthy Aging offers Tai Chi, Healthy Steps in Motion, Zumba Gold, and various health screenings throughout the year.

**Tai Chi** is a type of martial art very well known for its defense techniques and health benefits. Practicing Tai Chi is good for balance, bones, and mental health.

**Healthy Steps in Motion** is a program that offers exercise routines to build strength (especially in the lower body), increase flexibility, and improve balance.

**Zumba Gold** builds cardiovascular health by challenging the heart and working the muscles of the hips, legs, and arms with dance moves.

Individually, STEP's Center for Healthy Aging Coordinators also develop partnerships with community agencies for new and innovative programming! Some of these offerings include **Lunch and Learn with Lou** in partnership with the Ross Library, **I am Smarter than my iPhone** technology classes in partnership with South Williamsport Area School District, and **Tech Savvy Senior** sessions with Loyalsock Township School District.

Visit [www.stepcorp.org/CenterCalendars](http://www.stepcorp.org/CenterCalendars) to see what's scheduled at your nearest STEP Center for Healthy Aging.







# STEP, Inc. | FCFP

## *Grant Recipient*

The First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania (FCFP) recently approved about \$1.02 million in grants to 10 individual organizations through the Williamsport Lycoming Competitive Grant Program. STEP, Inc. was among the organizations granted funding after FCFP and Williamsport Lycoming Regional Advisory board members worked to determine the most advantageous uses of the funding. Service area, population, sustainability, community support, need, and adherence to the grant criteria were considered for each proposal.

STEP, Inc. was awarded \$119,283 to help equip and furnish the STEP Transportation Facility Project, currently being planned to consist of a garage to house their fleet of vehicles, an administration and training building, as well as a vehicle wash bay.





***From September 2023 to September 2024, AmeriCorps is celebrating 30 Years of National Service!***

Three decades ago, more than 20,000 Americans raised their right hands and pledged to *Get Things Done* for America. These members helped more than 1,000 communities nationwide during their first year of service. Since then, more than 1.25 million Americans and hundreds of thousands more AmeriCorps Seniors members of all backgrounds have followed in their footsteps, providing billions of hours of results-driven service across each of the 50 states and US territories.

In times of tragedy and triumph, when America calls, AmeriCorps answers. Whether it's AmeriCorps members stepping forward to help after 9/11, aiding in recovery from disasters like Hurricane Katrina over the course of decades, or pivoting to address the urgent needs created by the COVID-19 pandemic, AmeriCorps knows how to get things done for America and has been turning moments of impact into a national service movement throughout the years.

***You can join STEP AmeriCorps in celebrating the movement by sharing stories of STEP AmeriCorps successes at [www.facebook.com/STEPAmeriCorpsPA](https://www.facebook.com/STEPAmeriCorpsPA)***



# Mark Your Calendar!



## STEP Head Start Mitten Tree Project

Now through December 15

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 15.

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 17 through December 14

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 2024

January 15 through 19

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](https://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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