



Newsletter



AmeriCorps

MLK DREAM WEEK 2022

Has the DREAM been realized?



Winter
2022

» on the cover:

- 6 STEP AmeriCorps Dream Week: Has the Dream Been Realized?

» in this issue:

- 4 NGA of Newberry donates to STEP Head Start
- 5 STEP Head Start Mitten Tree
- 8 Santa's Seniors
- 10 CDBG-CV Mortgage Assistance Program

» in every issue:

- 3 STEP Star Awards
- 11 Upcoming Events



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Star Awards

STEP's recognizes its employees year-round through a peer recommendation and recognition program called the STEP Star Awards.

Employees are encouraged to submit the name(s) 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.



November, December, and January STEP Star award winners are:

Mike Snyder
Information Technology
Computer Specialist

Rachel Kinley
Service Navigation
Family Navigator

Mindi Hoover
Service Navigation
Family Navigator

Jonathan Gehr
Housing Options
Facilities & Maintenance Lead

Kelly Crowe
Office of Aging
Information Assistant

Nikolina Cleaver
(Pictured at right, below)
Office of Aging
Social Services Manager



Phoebe Watson
(Pictured at right, above)
Office of Aging
PA MEDI Coordinator



The winner of November's gift card drawing was Phoebe Watson!

The winner of December's gift card drawing was Jonathan Gehr!

The winner of January's gift card drawing was Nikolina Cleaver!

nga of Newberry

donates to STEP Head Start

The Newberry branch of National Giving Alliance, formerly known as Needlework Guild of America (NGA), is an organization that STEP Head Start works with closely each year. NGA works to improve the quality of life for homeless, low-income, and moderate income children, women, and men by collecting and distributing new gifts of clothes. This year, NGA provided a warm outfit or coat to each STEP Head Start and Early Head Start child enrolled in the Williamsport area.

STEP Head Start education staff collected child sizing information and provided this data to Kayla Butters, STEP Head Start Family and Community Outreach Specialist, who collaborated with Becky Pryor, NGA President, to match available items to the requested sizes. A total of 277 outfits and coats were distributed to the children at the end of November.



The Mitten Tree

Warm, colorful mittens were distributed this winter to children enrolled in STEP Head Start, thanks to the generosity of many. This is the 17th year STEP Head Start's annual Mitten Tree Project has been able to keep hundreds of children's hands warm for the winter. The collection ran from mid-October through the end of December, then donations were sorted and distributed to Head Start and Early Head Start children in Lycoming and Clinton counties.

This year 368 pairs of mittens were donated - several donations included sets of hats and scarves as well! 300 donated pairs of mittens were handmade from long-time Mitten Tree supporters, Knitters for Neighbors.



DREAM WEEK 2022

Has the
DREAM
been realized?



STEP AmeriCorps, Lycoming College, Pennsylvania College of Technology, and former members of the Beloved Community Council hosted Dream Week 2022 from January 12 through January 19. Dream Week is a full week of opportunities to safely take action to create the beloved community of Dr. King's dream.

To kick off Dream Week events, STEP AmeriCorps planned its first in-person Peace Walk since the onset of the COVID pandemic. Inclement winter weather caused the event to shift to an individual/online format, where all registered Peace Walk participants were encouraged to take part in a virtual Peace Walk on their own or with a group and share their journeys and photos.



Pastor Marwyn Reeves of Christ Community Church shared the speech he planned for the cancelled in-person Peace Walk. A video of his message can be viewed online at <https://youtu.be/48eHDkyy-Do>.

In addition to individual Peace Walks, Dream Week events included a Red Cross blood drive, a virtual NAACP meeting, a race and wealth gap learning simulation, and speaking events featuring Dr. Drew G.I. Hart, Theology Professor, Church Anti-Racism Leader, and Social Change Practitioner and poet Anthony McPherson.



Pastor Marwyn Reeves



Dr. Drew G.I. Hart



Anthony McPherson

Throughout Dream Week, STEP AmeriCorps also organized and a week-long donation drive for their annual MLK Day of Service, benefiting two local nonprofits: Dwell Orphan Care and Firetree Place.

The MLK Day of Service is led by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that engages millions of Americans in service through its AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs and leads the nation's volunteer efforts. For more information, visit www.nationalservice.gov.





Santa's Seniors

Over the past 16 years, STEP Office of Aging has partnered with the Williamsport Sun-Gazette, the Lock Haven Express, Backyard Broadcasting, and many other area businesses to coordinate the Santa's Seniors Program. This annual program provides gift boxes to over 350 senior citizens who receive Meals on Wheels through STEP's Office of Aging. The gift boxes are typically delivered by the Meals on Wheels volunteers with help from the Pennsylvania State Police. Often, these gift boxes are the only holiday items received by our home-bound seniors.

STEP Office of Aging's Center Coordinators worked to sort and pack donations with the assistance of STEP AmeriCorps - a huge task that is usually done by many volunteers!

Instead of a single boxed delivery, large tote bags were delivered twice during the holiday season using the same contactless procedures as for Meals on Wheels. Hats, gloves, scarves, toiletries, water bottles, snacks, breakfast foods, and single-serve pantry staples were among the items included in the bags gifted to our most vulnerable seniors, often forgotten during the holidays.

STEP Office of Aging and its partners would like to thank all of our donors and volunteers who helped make the holidays bright for home-bound seniors!



CDBG-CV Mortgage Assistance Program



Do you live in Lycoming County and need mortgage or utility assistance?

Homeowners in need of assistance can apply for the Community Development Block Grant COVID (CDBG-CV) Mortgage Assistance Program. The program is administered by Lycoming-Clinton Counties Commission for Community Action (STEP), Inc.

Eligible homeowners must live in Lycoming County, in an area not situated in the City of Williamsport, Borough of South Williamsport, or Loyalsock Township. Residents in those municipalities are encouraged to apply for the PA Homeowner Assistance Fund at www.pahaf.org.

The application can be completed online at www.stepcorp.org/cdbg-cv or picked up at the STEP office at 2138 Lincoln Street, Williamsport. For more information, please call 570.326.0587 or email hlrhine@stepcorp.org.





Mark Your Calendar!

Raise the Region

Wednesday, March 9 at 6:00 PM
through Thursday, March 10 at 11:59 PM

Raise the Region is a 30-hour online fundraising event held by the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania.

Raise the Region gives community members an opportunity to support our local nonprofits by helping them raise as much money as possible! Donations from this strategic and unified effort will support our local nonprofits in addressing the increasing needs of our region. Your contribution will help them in creating more vibrant communities and ultimately help our North Central Pennsylvania region thrive!

You can support STEP by visiting: www.stepcorp.org/RTR





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