



Newsletter



Early Head Start

**FAMILY
FUN DAY**

Summer
2022

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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 of their choosing.

May, June, and July
STEP Star award winners are:



- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Heather Rhine
Service Navigation Assistant Manager | Brenda McDermit
Office of Aging Center for Healthy Aging Coordinator | Nick Meale
Fiscal Fiscal Generalist | Sunshine Kustaborder
Head Start Family Advocate |
| Kelsey Barnes
Office of Aging Care Manager Assessor | Stacy Steppe
Service Navigation Lead Family Navigator | Mike Snyder
Information Technology Computer Support Specialist | Jennifer Wilson
Head Start Teacher |
| Nancy Saiers
Head Start Home-Based Manager | Janna Gohl
Head Start PBIS Specialist | Michelle Anderson
Head Start Teacher Assistant | Katie Adams
Head Start Classroom Aide |
| Cheryl Goodwin
Head Start Classroom Aide | Joe Laver
Early Learning Resource Center Eligibility/Training & Compliance Specialis | Buffy Neese
Head Start Health Specialist | Kim Vergilis
Head Start Teacher Assistant |
| Christina Watt
Office of Aging Care Manager Assessor | Melissa Murray
Utilities Assistance Utilities Assistance Lead | Erica Blake
Head Start Center-Based Supervisor | Jane Thompson
Office of Aging Centers for Healthy Aging Manager |
| Nichole Miller*
Administration CCCC Coordinator | Amber Newell
Office of Aging Center for Healthy Aging Coordinator | Diana Lynch
Head Start Family Advocate | Sarah Mothersbaugh
Office of Aging Care Manager Assessor |
| Mendi Bush
Administration Information Assistant | Tammy Frye
Office of Aging Center for Healthy Aging Coordinator | Amanda Klein
Early Head Start Teacher | |

Individuals indicated with an asterisk (*) were nominated twice.



The winner of May's gift card drawing was Amber Newell!

The winner of June's gift card drawing was Tammy Frye!

The winner of July's gift card drawing was Sarah Mothersbaugh!

SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM

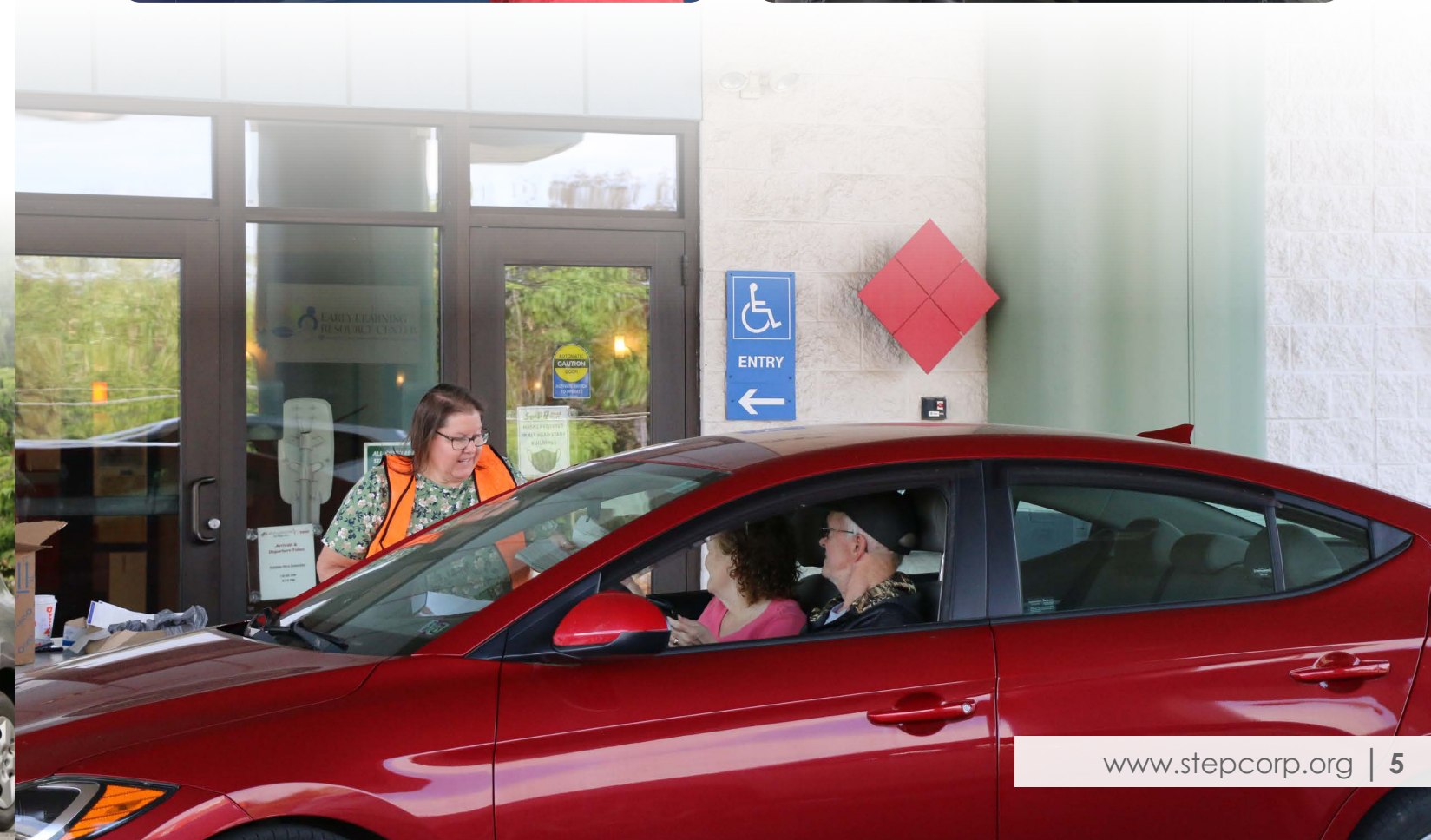
Veggie Vouchers

Each year STEP office of Aging administers the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP), designed to provide low-income seniors with access to locally grown fruits, vegetables, honey, and herbs by providing \$24 in veggie vouchers to eligible seniors. This year drive thru distribution was offered at many of STEP's Centers for Healthy Aging throughout Clinton and Lycoming counties. The event was hugely popular, and Office of Aging staff were able to distribute all 2,500 Veggie Vouchers.

"The SFMNP Veggie Vouchers are a wonderful program, and with the rising cost of groceries and food insecurity, these vouchers are truly valuable to the consumers we serve."

- Jane Thompson | Centers for Healthy Aging Manager

Part of STEP's Independent Living Pathway to Success, STEP Office of Aging is the local Area Agency on Aging in Lycoming and Clinton counties. Through its eight Centers for Healthy Aging and two social services offices, STEP Office of Aging provides a wide range of programs and services designed to advance the well-being of older adults and enable seniors to remain in their own homes and apartments and lead independent lifestyles. For more information on Office of Aging programs and services, call 570-323-3096 or visit www.stepcorp.org.





Early Head Start

FAMILY FUN DAY



STEP Early Head Start in Lycoming County held a Family Fun Day on Friday, July 15 at the South Williamsport park complex.

The theme was **Camp Early Head Start** and families participated in a scavenger hunt, painted their own rocks to take home, created bug fossils in scented play dough, decorated binoculars, pretended to make their own s'mores, played a game of marshmallow toss, and had their family photos taken at the campsite!

STEP Early Head Start in Clinton County held their Family Fun Day on Friday, July 22 at the Clinton County Community Center in Lock Haven.

Children and their families were greeted by Head Start's PBIS mascot, Phoebe, and had their photographs taken. **Summer fun** was the theme of the day and children enjoyed making gigantic bubbles, expressed their creativity with foam paint, made a splash with waterplay, and also enjoyed face painting, riding bikes, and playing on the playground.



JUNETEENTH 2022

Living Free + Healthy



Williamsport's second annual Juneteenth celebration was held in Brandon Park on Saturday, June 18. The event hosted by the Lycoming Tri-County NAACP in partnership with STEP, Inc., CommUnity Zone, Penn Future, Williamsport YWCA, UPMC, and Lycoming County United Way welcomed people from all walks of life to celebrate and recognize Black culture, struggle, and triumph. The day was full of unifying activities that began as a Freedom Walk from Freedom Road Cemetery and ended at Brandon Park, where local businesses and social organizations lined the area around the bandshell.

Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery and is a day of joy, celebration, and a recommitment to the values of freedom and building a good community for all. This year's theme, Juneteenth – Living Free & Healthy, focused on the importance and interconnection of all aspects of health: mental, physical, and financial.

During the celebration, many acts shared the stage, including an interactive fitness class/demo led by Nisan Trotter of Trot Fitness in Lewisburg, a Pan-African dance and drumming performance by Umoja, a group of current and former Lycoming College students, plus other spoken word and musical performers. Line dancing, a facilitated drum circle, and guided meditation were also offered.



STEP provided many of the promotional materials for this year's event including the *Juneteenth 2022 Living Free & Healthy* logo, t-shirts, and bookmarks. STEP's Social Justice Task Force provided and distributed this year's Juneteenth t-shirts, the first in a series set to continue each year in commemoration of the event! The Social Justice Task Force is made up of STEP staff from various departments, many of whom were in attendance with information to share with the community, including: Early Learning Resource Center Region 7, STEP Head Start, and STEP AmeriCorps.





AmeriCorps is a national service program that provides thousands of Americans of all ages and backgrounds with education awards in exchange for a year or two of community service. The STEP AmeriCorps program partners with numerous nonprofit organizations and schools in Clinton, Lycoming, and Tioga counties to provide service opportunities to meet the region's community needs.

In July, STEP AmeriCorps members gathered at the West End Christian Community Center in Newberry to complete their final group project of the 2021-2022 service year: priming and painting the building's handicap accessible ramp!

To celebrate the service year ending in August, STEP AmeriCorps welcomed current members and alumni aboard the Hiawatha Riverboat where this year's participants were recognized for their contributions and successful completion of the service term.

Want to get involved?

A new service year is starting now! Visit www.stepcorp.org/AmeriCorps to learn more and apply for service opportunities to jump start your career.



Mark Your Calendar!

Medicare



**Medicare Open Enrollment
October 15 through December 7**

Medicare open enrollment – also known as Medicare's annual election period – runs from October 15 through December 7 each year. (Although Medicare's open enrollment period ends on December 7 each year, extended enrollment opportunities are available to people in areas where FEMA declares an emergency or major disaster that hampers your ability to complete your enrollment during the normal window.)

During this annual window, Medicare plan enrollees can reevaluate their coverage – whether it's Original Medicare with supplemental drug coverage, or Medicare Advantage – and make changes or purchase new policies if they want to do so.

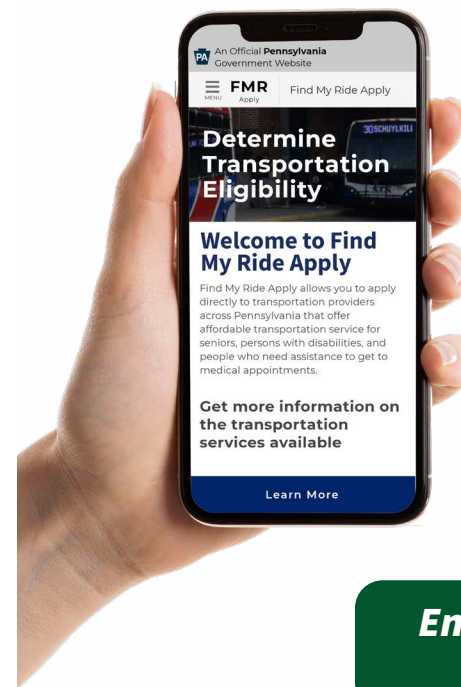
Call STEP Office of Aging at 570-323-3096 for more information.

STEP Transportation | Find My Ride

STEP Transportation is partnering with PennDot to guide riders through the Find My Ride one-time enrollment process.

Enroll Today at

www.stepcorp.org/FindMyRide



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