

LCCAP Youth Programs Newsletter



Winter 2017-18

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Lights on Afterschool



Healthy Youth PA partnered with the New Castle Area School District's C.A.N.E.S. Club after school program to support their Lights on After School event. The Afterschool Alliance organizes Lights on After School to draw attention to the many ways after school programs support students. This offers them opportunities to learn new things—such as science, community service projects, healthy choice awareness, and discovering new skills.

Youth decorated large,

paper light bulbs and listed reasons why the afterschool program was important to them. Parents attended the event, where STEAM, STEM and Healthy Youth PA programming was highlighted. Parents, along with their students, engaged in discussions about the importance of after school programs in their community.

Lights on After School is the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families, and communities.

Donation Drive for Our Troops

Teaching kids the value in giving back is an asset that Healthy Youth PA Staff are working to develop in our youth. In November, our youth were instrumental in organizing a collections drive to support our Military Troops serving overseas. Healthy Youth PA partnered with the Yellow Ribbon Girls, an organization based out of Ellwood City which ship care packages to active members of the military. The Yellow Ribbon Girls started in 2003 with a few yellow ribbons and pins, and with the help of friends, neighbors, schools and churches have now shipped over 38,000 packages and counting.

HYPAs youth made donation boxes and placed them at local schools. Participating schools were New Castle Jr/Sr. High School, Cray

Challenges, George Washington Intermediate School and Ben Franklin Early Learning Center. Lawrence County Community Action Partnership staff also participated in the collections drive to support the youth in reaching their goal. With the generous support of the faculty, staff, students and community members, all of the boxes were filled to the brim with desired items for our service men and women, such as protein bars, beef jerky, socks, toothpaste, and drink mixes. The boxes were packed and included thank you cards created by the youth. The Soldiers express in their letters how much the notes, supplies and treats from home mean for their bodies, minds and morale. Our staff would like to thank all who made this Community Service Project a success.

Meet Our Mentors!



Hello!
My name is Howard Thompson and I am a mentor for Healthy Youth PA. I am employed full time at Neshannock Township Municipal Building. I am also a proud father and grandfather. I enjoy going out to dinner with my wife and working with children and seeing them smile when they learn new things.



My name is Kylie Sheppeck and I am currently studying Secondary Education-Social Studies at Butler County Community College. This fall I will be transferring to Clarion University to finish my Bachelor's degree. In my spare time I like to run, read, and play with my dogs. I went to Butler High School and I was a flag team captain and also ran cross country. I ran the Pittsburgh half marathon twice and ran the full marathon last year. A fun fact about me is, this summer I will be traveling to South Africa for an International Relations and Diplomacy conference.



My name is Madison Quigley, I am full time student at Slippery Rock University and work part time at a nursing home. I am going to school for early childhood education. I am happy to be a part of Healthy Youth PA, the kids help teach me more about what it is like to be open minded and how important it is to learn new things. Thank you LCCAP for allowing me to be a part of such a great program!



Mentors Con t...



Hello, My name is Dana McKnight.

I'm a student at Slippery Rock University majoring in Sports Management. I love football and basketball and playing video games.

Police Appreciation

In March, Police officers from Neshannock Twp. and New Castle Units will be visiting our HYPA workshops at both Cray and CANES Club. They will be conducting a Safety Workshop to discuss emergency preparedness and response with our youth. The youth have been busy creating appreciation bags for both Police Departments.



Guest Speakers

The Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County

In December, Susan McKinnis, Community Education Specialist for the Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County, conducted a workshop titled "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," a lesson that creatively compared the Grinch to a bully. The youth

discussed bullying, the effects of bullying and the importance of putting a stop to bullying. Susan also touched on how social media can be positive and negative in the lives of our youth. She enlighten with ways to decipher how to correctly use social media.

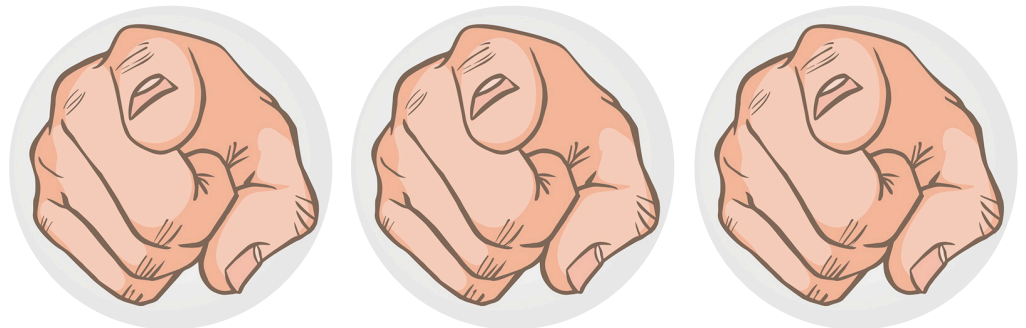
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UPMC Jameson Hospital

In January, Julie Slinn of Jameson Hospital's Dietary Department, conducted a detailed presentation encouraging youth to make healthy eating choices. During the discussion, the youth viewed numerous bottles filled with the amount of sugar in that drink. Youth were shocked to see that what they deemed

a "Healthy" Sports Drink contained an abundance of sugar! The youth created a meal utilizing food items provided by Julie and tested their knowledge of the MyPlate lesson. The program ended with the youth getting a hands-on opportunity to compare the difference between five pounds of fat and five pounds of muscle.

A CALL FOR MENTORS!



Healthy Youth PA is still looking for mentors to volunteer with our youth at New Castle Area School District's CANES Club! Mentors should be 18 years of age or older. College students majoring in Education and/or Social Work are welcome, as is anyone willing to assist our young students in achieving success. If you know of anyone willing to volunteer their time to become a mentor, **contact Janet Shepherd at (724) 658-7258 ext. 1515.**

Valentine's Day Community Service- Love Spans Generations

On Valentine's Day, Healthy Youth PA, along with their teachers and program staff, converged on two of our local care facilities to spread love and joy to the elderly in our community. Cray youth visited Edison Manor and CANES Club youth visited Rhodes Estate. Each youth was assigned to a resident in which he/she engaged in friendly conversation while creating a butterfly craft together. The residents were amazed on how well the kids did and were very appreciative of how much the kids were willing to help out.

This community service brought smiles to the residents,



and the youth discovered that a simple act of kindness goes a long way in brightening someone's day.

Thank You to the New Castle Police & Get Well Miranda the Dog!



The #iMatter youth made "Thank You" cards for the New Castle Police Department as a thank you for finding Miranda, the young puppy who was left abandoned at a home in New Castle. The #iMatter youth also made get well cards for Miranda which were delivered to her at the Humane Society by LCCAP staff. The Humane Society was thankful for the generosity and kindness that the kids have shown.

Life Skill Enhancement Program Acknowledges a Star Student

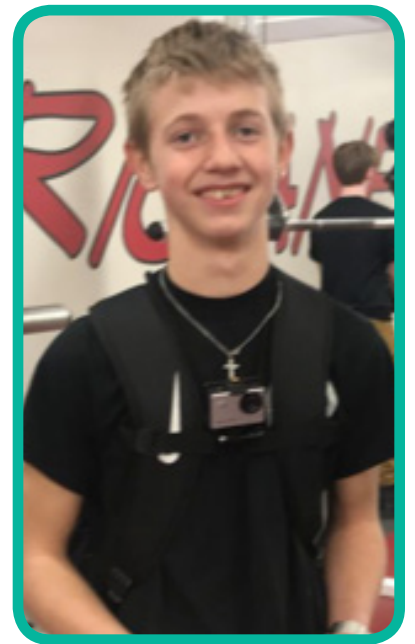
Dakota Baldwin, a participant in LCCAP's Life Skills Enhancement Program, has continued to excel in meeting his program goals. Dakota has proven to be a valuable member of our Healthy Youth PA program, too!

Dakota went above and beyond helping out with the programs that he is involved in at LCCAP. Dakota is involved in helping out with the younger youth in LCCAP's programs as a positive peer mentor. He takes his time and teaches each individual student ways to make positive choices in school. Dako-

ta assists during the workshops by passing out and collecting worksheets, setting up materials for the staff, and puts in a great deal of effort to make sure things run smoothly for any workshop he participates in.

Dakota has made the HONOR ROLL at school this year. He has also been awarded incentives for his outstanding work and hard effort in school.

Our Staff is very proud of Dakota's accomplishments and wish him the best as he continues to make healthy and positive choices in his life.



#iMatter Graduation 2017

LCCAP Staff hosted a graduation ceremony for the fall term of #iMatter on December 12, 2017 at the Confluence Café, located in downtown New Castle. The theme for graduation was “Winter Wonderland,” which included winter activities for the youth and their families to enjoy, such

as ice skating and a fully stocked hot cocoa bar. Dinner was provided to the families that attended the event, but the highlight of the buffet were all the sweet treats such as cookies, candy, cup-



cakes, and hot cocoa. The evening included guest speakers Susan McKinnis, of the Crisis Shelter, and Tanya Patxot, co-owner of Sovereign Martial Arts (SMA), who provided inspirational speeches of encouragement to both the youth and their families. Both the Crisis Shelter and SMA partnered with #iMatter

by conducting weekly workshops for the youth in the program. The lessons were full of valuable information that each child will continue to use throughout their lives.

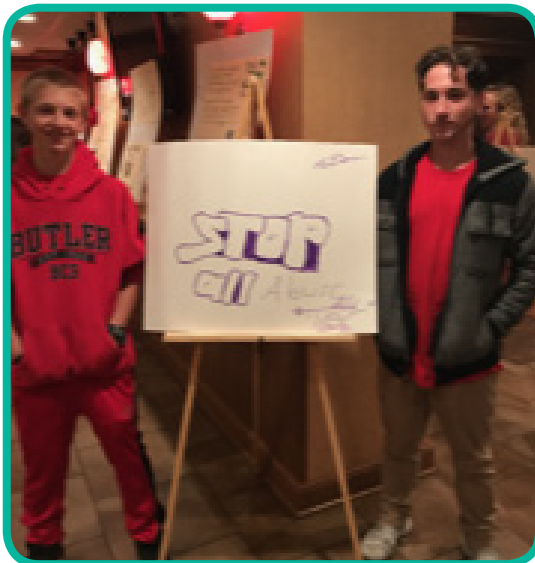
Youth Enter Posters at Crisis Shelter Awareness Dinner

The #iMatter youth and LCCAP staff were invited to the Domestic Violence Awareness Dinner held at the Villa this past fall.

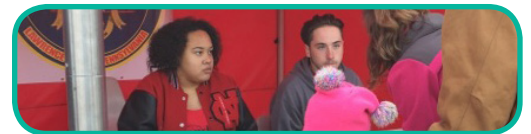
Our youth created posters that included creative slogans and pictures as a means to stop domestic violence and animal abuse. These posters were displayed at the dinner.

Speakers at the evening’s event showed an uncanny correlation between animal abusers and those who engage in domestic violence. The connections and similarities show that individuals who first begin abusing animals are likely to progress to domestic violence.

As part of the Domestic Violence Awareness month, pictures of family pets dressed in purple were submitted for the Purple Pet Picture Contest. Fredo, the four-legged son (he happens to be a St. Bernard) of #iMatter staff Kimberly Kliem, won second place. Congratulations to Fredo Corleone!



J.O.B.S. Youth Help at Community Ice Rink



The City of New Castle Police Department collaborated with District Attorney’s office to create a 30-by-40 foot ice rink located at the Riverplex Amphitheatre in downtown New Castle. The rink was open Thursdays through Sundays during the month of December. J.O.B.S. participants Paige Bethune and Lucas Betker of New Castle high school assisted with operation. These students served as activities assistants with job duties including passing out skates, assuring skaters signed waivers prior to skating, and set up/clean up. Paige and Lucas contributed to this successful first annual event and gained valuable job skills to carry on for future career goals.



Spotlight on Destiny Wilson, V.O.T.E. 4 Students Success Story

Program V.O.T.E. 4 Students – Vocational Opportunities for Transitioning to Employment is a community-based vocational instruction program which allow students to do a 90 hour internship at a host site that suits their future career choice, along with an Aspiring Young Professionals Seminar (AYP). This Seminar provides the students with labor market, soft skills, interviewing, team building, financial literacy, and public transportation training to prepare them for their future career.

Destiny Wilson was our newest success sto-

ry with the V.O.T.E. 4 Students program. Destiny did her internship with security at New Castle High School. Destiny took her job very seriously and was able to observe and learn a vast amount of valuable information for her future career goal of Police/Corrections Officer. Officer Holmes, New Castle High School's Security Officer, stated that Destiny was a joy to work with and was a stellar intern. Destiny has finished her 90 hour program and is currently practicing for her multiple roles in the School Musical, Hairspray, and is also working part-time for Famous Footwear. She plans to attend Pittsburgh Technical College for Criminal Justice in the fall.

Aspiring Youth Professionals Seminar Held in Beaver and Lawrence County



Academic components to help students develop work readiness and independent living skills were offered to V.O.T.E. 4 Students in a Seminar entitled "Aspiring Young Professionals" (AYP). The Beaver County AYP Seminar was held on December 8, 2017 at the Beaver County Careerlink and on March 2 at Ca-

reerlink in New Castle. Topics included in the training were employee etiquette, dressing for success, and workplace expectations. Local employers joined in a roundtable discussion to have an open conversation with the students about what it takes to be a good employee, get a job, and maintain that job. WesBanco representatives, Judy

Diesing and Keith Poleti, were present in Beaver County to provide a session on credit management and budgeting skills needed for the real world. Huntington Bank representatives presented in Lawrence County.

Additional trainings have been offered on an as-need-basis for our enrolled youth, such as travel training and hygiene needs, in addition to supportive services, such as assistance purchasing work clothing and bus passes. The trainings, along with their 90 hour paid work experience, help participants be even more successful in their Community Based Vocational Instruction.

Healthy Youth PA -Developing Assets in our Youth



Healthy Youth PA is working to develop assets in youth through means beyond the classroom and the traditional workshop experience. During the Months of November and December, HYPA staff implemented programming to engage our youth in their community through service. Collaborating with the CANES Club, Jr. High students were transported into our downtown area and, along with assistance from staff and our Healthy Youth PA Mentors, decorated the Riverplex and Ice Rink for our annual Light-Up Night. Following the activity, mentors and mentees enjoyed hot cocoa and board games in the Confluence Café. During the Month of December, Healthy Youth PA

participants teamed up with the Yellow Ribbon Girls, a group of local women who collect, package and ship care items to our military service men and women overseas. The youth decorated donation boxes, and created and posted flyers at their schools to collect items to make care packages. Over Christmas Break, Healthy Youth PA sponsored a family fun day in Downtown New Castle. Families met at the historic Warner Theater for a viewing of the Christmas Carol, then moved to the Confluence Café, where the Hoyt Institute of Fine Arts led youth in creating a three-D snowflake. Families enjoyed the afternoon on the Ice Rink and hot chocolate with their Mentors. Men-

tors paired with their Mentees to create Thanks you cards to show appreciation for our military, which they included in their care packages through the Yellow Ribbon Girls. Lastly, Lawrence County Community Action Partnerships' Annual Jingle Bash brought Healthy Youth Families out for pictures with Santa, offered Santa's Lane for the youth to pick out a gift, and gift-wrapping. Our older Healthy Youth participants volunteered at the gift-wrapping station. Parents/caretakers and program mentors were invited and encouraged to attend all outside activities as a means to foster relationships, and to build trust and rapport with program recipients.

Say "Hi" to Samantha Harriett!



"Sam" is a junior at Slippery Rock High School and a participant in the J.O.B.S program in Butler County. She is currently completing her WBLE with the Butler County Humane Society as an intern. Sam can be found assisting with rabies clinics, constructing critical spread sheets for the society, and offering creative ideas for fundraising events. In addition to participating in the J.O.B.S program, she is an avid soccer player and animal lover. Sam is pictured with her "favorite" shelter pup-Mollie.



Jobs That Pay LESS OVR Programs

Tour Highlights

The 'Jobs that Pay' tour is an effort by state agencies to promote good-paying, family-sustaining jobs and career paths available to job seekers across the Commonwealth, and to listen to and learn from Employers and employees about workforce development needs.

On February 22, Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) Executive Director for the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) David DeNotaris, along with a video production team, stopped by New Castle High School and Rhodes Estates to highlight LCSS J.O.B.S. and V.O.T.E. 4 Students youth work programs. Youth, worksite supervisors, as well as support staff, were interviewed as part of the tour. Their interviews, along with others from around the State, will be compiled into a movie that will be posted to social media showing the successes of State programming.

There are many individuals who were an

essential part of showcasing the successes of our programs. The youth participants who attended the event were NCASD Students Destiny Wilson, Ashley Kohlen, Tyrese Austin, Kassi Eisenhuth, Cameron Froce, and Andrea DiCarlo. New Brighton High School students Seth McClain and Brandon Hoff, along with Neshannock Students Dallas Cimini and Mykala Austin traveled to attend this event. Graduate Amber Bethune was highlighted at Rhodes Estates, where she was hired after completing the VOTE program at that host site.

Along with our youth, New Castle on-site supervisor Mr. Shawn Anderson, the ELECT Counselor for Lawrence County; Dr. Juliann Mangino, New Brighton High School; Assistant Principal Robert Budacki, Jr., and Resident Coordinator of Rhodes Estates, Mary Ann McConahy, along with OVR District Administrator Gail Steck and LCSS's VOTE and JOBS Transition Specialists, were on hand to support our youth during this exciting opportunity.



Things to do this Spring!

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| Plant something green | Climb a tree |
| Have a picnic at the park | Find a playground and swing on the swings |
| Jog outside | Feed the ducks at a pond |
| Take a hike | Wade in a creek |
| Play softball | Draw pictures on the sidewalk with chalk |
| Ride a bike | Skip stones across a pond |
| Sit outside at a café | Wear open-toed shoes |
| Visit a farm to see the animals | Buy a fun umbrella |
| Fly a kite | Visit the zoo |
| Look for four-leaf clovers | |

NEW CASTLE COMMUNITY YMCA
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(724) 658-4766 www.NCYMCA.org

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