

LCCAP YOUTH NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2020



TOP Club Highlights Community Service Learning



Our Teen Outreach Program (TOP) students at Cray Challenges prepared for Valentine's Day by spending some time with our most experienced community members at the Edison Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center! On February 13th, as part of a full day of Valentine's Day activities, Noah, Aiden, Braden, and TOP Facilitators mingled with residents, collaborated on unique, decorative Valentines, and lead a few highly-charged, enthusiastic bingo games! Both

our students and the Edison residents seemed to truly enjoy their time together. They even got to meet and play with a Golden Retriever puppy that happened to be in for a short visit!

CSL, or Community Service Learning, is one of the fundamental components of TOP. We want our TOP club members to feel "the CSL glow," that knowledge of the positive impact they can have on their neighbors and larger community. If you know of any opportunities for youth community service learning projects, please let us know!



#iMATTER

As part of our #iMATTER program, students develop a greater sense of themselves and their ambitions. Through discussions related to personality styles, trust, values, and decision-making, students are given the opportunity to work toward positive outcomes regardless of

what may be going on around them. These can be deep and sensitive topics, so we try to make sure we're having fun at the same time. Teambuilding activities and group outings help build a sense of community – we recently spent an evening at the Westgate Cinemas enjoying "Sonic the Hedgehog" and enjoyed dinner at Pizza Joe's afterward.

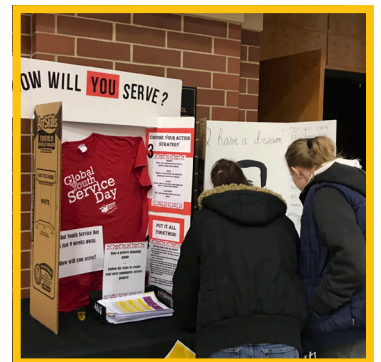
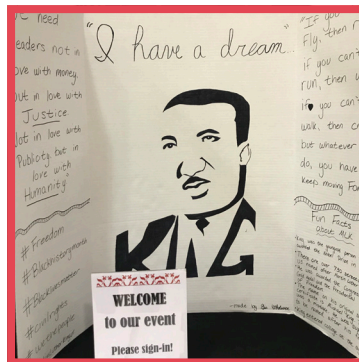
Everyone can be great because every can serve -MLK

On Wednesday, February 19th, from 6:30 -8PM, New Castle High School TOP (Teen Outreach Program) Club hosted an event focused on Martin Luther King, Jr's quote, "Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve". This year, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency leading US service, volunteer, and grant making programs, is emphasizing this message. The Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on January 20, 2020, marked the 25th anniversary of the day of service that celebrates the Civil Rights leader's life and legacy. The TOP Club wanted to honor this occasion by offering an opportunity for the community to hear from local, influential leaders who are currently working to serve New Castle. A large poster at the event greeted guests with the handprints of NCHS students, the idea of TOP Club to include as many students' hands as possible representing that all people are needed to make a difference in a community. The TOP



Club were "all hands on deck" as they hosted the event, welcoming guests and introducing each speaker. The event offered dinner prior to the panel of speakers. Guest Speakers shared their years of service, what service means to them, and any upcoming youth-related service opportunities. Speakers for this event included:

Angie Urban, Executive Director of New Visions Lawrence County; Octavia Payne, Founder of the Diamond Girls; David Ward, VP NAACP and Youth Coordinator; and Fran Joseph, NCASD Service Learning Coordinator. Each speaker offered insight into their connections with the city and answered questions asked by members of the TOP Club. Their years of service and dedication to the community was evident and their words provided emphasis that service matters; whether one chooses to remain in their home community or pursue their lives elsewhere, service in one's community is essential in making a difference.



COVID-19

Our nation has been asked to shelter in our homes in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19. Because of quarantine measures, schools have closed, as have most businesses and industries, which has put our PREP and #iMatter programs and our TOP Club meetings on a temporary hiatus. We want you all to be safe, so stay home and be with your families during this time of crisis. Please remember that our country needs volunteers more than anything right now. There are a number of ways to continue to engage in community service remotely.

Here are a few ideas.

- Help seniors and others who are isolated. Run errands, make cards, and touch base with regular phone calls and facetime.
- Foster or adopt a shelter animal
- Provide childcare for family/friends/neighbors if schools are closed, but parents still have to work
- Spread cheer and positive messages in your neighborhood. Create sidewalk chalk messages, sing to your neighbors (while practicing physical distancing), create positive notes and leave in mailboxes.

*Visit <https://ysa.org/covid/> for more opportunities to serve.
Be safe and stay healthy.*



Making Proud Choices!



In January, ten local youth traipsed out in the winter storm to attend the Personal Responsibility Education Program held at LCCAP. The youth focused on building their healthy decision making skills, working their way through the “Making Proud Choices” curriculum over two Saturdays. Wrapping up the program, guest workshop facilitator Lucia Fee, Community Outreach Educator from the Lawrence County Crisis Shelter, taught workshops on healthy relationship, self-esteem and diversity. The youth earned Walmart gift cards as incentive for attending the program. If you, or your youth age 11-18, would like to participate in the program, please contact Kristin at 724-658-7258 x 1517, for information on upcoming workshops

Hydroponics- Farming of the Future

Did you know that LCCAP has a micro farm? A small garden and greenhouse located at LCCAP's Frew Mill Campus is coming to life with a recent Agricultural Initiative Grant. The adjacent building is being transformed into a hub for early learning children, families, and the community to tap into agriculture and fun STEM related activities.



One room will contain all hydroponic towers. Hydroponics is a method of growing plants without soil, by using mineral nutrient solutions in a water solvent. In March, two Westminster College students, along with their professor, joined Dale Chappell, LCCAP's Horticulture Specialist, at the greenhouse to learn about the hydro units. The team build a unit, added nutrients and tested water PH, and then planted beans. Right now, tomatoes, beans and lettuce are being harvested in five towers occupying greenhouse space. The new facility will house upwards of 20 units, and will produce everything from strawberries to microgreens year-round. Because hydro units expand the growing season and can fit in private residences, this technology is blazing the trail for agriculture of the future.



NeCa Period 8 TOP Club students worked through the "flipping your lid" lesson. Students role-played scenarios that might make them react with emotion and then showed ways to deal with the issue using techniques that allow them to stop, think, and reevaluate. Here are a few pictures of the groups acting out their scenes for the class.