

# GATEWAY: MAKING THE NEWS

*Celebrating 40 Years of Service-Fondly Looking Back and Enthusiastically Moving Forward*

## A Note from Dennis Gulley, Executive Director

As the executive director, I am profoundly honored to have had the opportunity to lead this great agency over the last twelve years. During my tenure, we have celebrated many successes and endured many challenges while remaining strong and steadfast to our mission. Gateway has always been in the business of helping others and our strength lies in our human capital. We have an engaged and dedicated board of directors, an involved and caring group of Head Start policy council members, and phenomenal staff that delivers extraordinary services. As you read this newsletter, you will see a glimpse of the wonderful things that are going on each day. Celebrating 40 years in business is an accomplishment that we do not take lightly. We are thankful to our clients who entrust us to provide quality and our community partners who interface with us in our continued mission of facilitating change in the lives of those experiencing socio-economic challenges.

*Whatever the mind can conceive and believe, it can achieve –Napoleon Hill*

## Staff Anniversary Dates:

### January

Susan Hager 23 years  
 Lisa Holbrook 8 years

### February

Teresa DeBord 22 years  
 Shelania May 2 years  
 Caroline Smith 2 years  
 Jill Crouch 1 year  
 Timothy Spencer 1 year  
 Ann Clayton 1 year

### March

Shannon Donaldson 5 years  
 Angela Maggio 5 years  
 Scott Utterback 5 years  
 Jennifer James 3 years  
 Colby Litteral 3 years  
 Judy Begley 2 years



**Child Abuse Awareness Month**



## Gateway's Expanding Technology

As we celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> year in business, we decided to make a video. We wanted to share with staff, community partners, and those that may be visiting our site for the first time Gateway's rich history. We are proud of our past which continues to shape and guide us as we remain current with today's business model. In order to make the video internally at little to no costs, we built a "studio" in one of our smaller conference rooms complete with a green screen, lighting, and sound system. We are proud of the finished product which will be posted on our website in the very near future. We hope you will find time to visit us at [www.gcscap.org](http://www.gcscap.org) and view our video.



## Upcoming Dates and Events

### April

Montgomery Baby Shower 5th  
 Rowan Baby Shower 5th  
 Morgan Help Me Grow 12th

### May

Walk for a Cure 17th  
 Bugs Books & Butterflies

### June

40th Anniversary event 14th  
 (Rain date July 19th)

\*\*Check local newspapers for specific dates of upcoming events



## AMERICORPS MEMBER SERVES AT GATEWAY

AmeriCorps volunteer Schelena Smith joined Gateway in October 2012, and has been our best-kept secret since that time. Schelena has been an exemplary employee, going well above and beyond what has been asked of her. Although community action employees are a very diverse group, all successful employees have a few traits in common: passion for local community, flexibility in performing a wide variety of tasks, and heart for service. Schelena displays each of these characteristics.



Schelena Smith, Mayor Mark Walters, and Cassandra Bradley

She brings a passion for the local community. A proud resident of Morgan County, she has worked to better the lives of those around her. She attends interagency meetings in all five counties and assists with job fairs and promotional activities. One of her greatest contributions to this point has been her work in financial coaching. Schelena has assisted clients with securing Individual Development Accounts and creating budgets.

She displays a great deal of flexibility in performing an astonishing variety of tasks. Two days are seldom the same in her work life. She has assisted CSBG with LIHEAP, worked tirelessly with the VITA tax preparation program, and called upon often to assist with two of Gateway's grant programs, the Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood and the Healthy Marriage Initiative, that requires a plethora of duties. Although these tasks are very different in nature, she does them all very well.

She is a great example of having a heart for service. She collected 263 pounds of food for local food pantries and volunteered with DOVES of Gateway to distribute brochures promoting protective orders and domestic violence awareness. Service has been a key element in Schelena's work and is one of the reasons she was invited to the signing of the proclamation of National Service Recognition Day April 1, 2014.

After spending nearly two years with Gateway, Schelena is no longer the agency's best-kept secret. The agency is very proud of her work and accomplishments.

## Uncle Sam Needed Gateway

One of the many programs that serve Gateway's clients is the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). In 2012, Gateway was approached by the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association to join the Northeastern Kentucky Asset Success Initiative to head the asset building coalition in Eastern Kentucky. Debbie VanNorman, Director of Community Initiatives, took the lead in developing the coalition.



In addition to Gateway, the members of NKABC are: Mason County Extension, People's self-Help Housing, Safe Harbor, DOVES, and Morehead State University. The major work of the group is to provide free tax preparation in the service area, promote Individual Development Accounts, and help clients take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit in a responsible manner.

The 2013 tax season has been busy for our Gateway tax preparers. Each employee who participated had to be certified by the IRS on an Advanced level. We are very proud of the work performed by Zach Engle, Chris Bowersock, Angie Elliott, Eric Collins, and our AmeriCorps volunteer, Schelena Smith. Our last report from the IRS on March 17<sup>th</sup> indicated completion of 514 returns in the coalition. There is no doubt the numbers will well top the 600 level compared to 498 in 2012.

This innovative economic empowerment work would not have been possible without the support of the Steele Reese Foundation and the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation. Their financial support helped the coalition successfully serve Northeastern Kentucky this tax season.



This has been a harsh winter with frigid temperatures, propane shortages, and next to impossible travel on roadways for wood vendors. Those factors created challenges for us but we ensured our clients were served. During the Subsidy portion of LIHEAP Gateway served 2,682 unduplicated homes and 1689 unduplicated homes during the Crisis portion of LIHEAP. We are hopeful that with the arrival of spring, utility bills will decrease and clients will find it easier to make ends meet. Our goal is to assist anyone in need. You may reach our local Outreach Office at the numbers listed below:

- \* Bath – 606-674-2502
- \* Menifee – 606-768-2369
- \* Montgomery – 859-498-5345
- \* Morgan – 606-743-3133
- \* Rowan – 606-784-7735

### What to Do to Get Energy Ready for Summer



Before it gets too warm, it's time to make sure you're ready for hot weather.

First, change your filters in your heating/cooling system. Change them regularly as recommended by the manufacturer.

Next change your thermostat over to "cool" and test the system by turning the temperature down. If the air conditioner does not turn on, first check to make sure no breakers are tripped. If you can't figure out the problem, call your heating and air conditioning repair person.

If your cooling system turns on, make sure it is putting out adequate cooling. If it's not, and you can't figure out the problem, call your heating and air conditioning repair person. Make sure you set it at 78 degrees.

If your air conditioner needs replacement do it **BEFORE** the **HOT WEATHER HITS** because heating & air conditioning repair people will be very busy. And more than likely, some other things around your home need attention as well. Your air ducts may need testing for leaks and then sealed. Your attic insulation probably has compacted, so you may need to add more. Your windows and doors and other parts of the building envelope may need caulking and weather stripping.

Consider changing your old thermostat to a programmable one. You can save up to \$100 a year by using a new set-back thermostat.



The 2014 Open Enrollment period for Health Insurance has ended. The 2015 Open Enrollment period begins November 15, 2014. You may still apply for 2014 coverage if you have certain life events that involve a change in your family or loss of other health coverage. You may also continue to apply for Medicaid benefits.

Beginning October 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014, 922 applications were completed and those families obtained health coverage.

For more information contact your local kynector IPA:

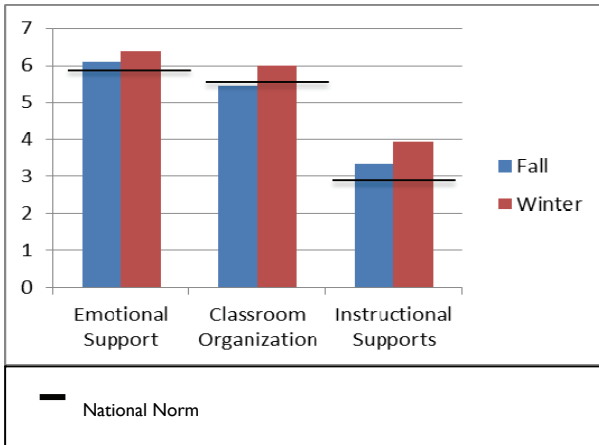
- Kim Plank – 606-207-2404 for Bath, Rowan and Montgomery Counties.
- Lori Sorrell – 606-495-1221 for Menifee, Morgan and Montgomery Counties.



The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Program has a new look! New Kentucky Career Center JobSight signage can be found in your community. These offices have career advisors on site who can assist with job search, resume writing, weekly job clubs, work readiness training, classroom training and much more. Since July 1, 2013 our offices in Menifee and Morgan counties have assisted approximately 100 job seekers in finding employment. For more information contact one of our offices:

- Menifee County – 606-768-3352
- Morgan County – 606-743-3133.

### Gateway Head Start CLASS Program Report



In the midst of a busy environment in a Head Start classroom, hundreds of interactions are occurring every day that have a significant impact on quality. The CLASS observation tool helps educators focus on daily interactions and develop the skills needed to promote a positive climate, encourage concept development, manage behaviors, and increase productivity by managing time wisely. In 2013, classrooms nationally scored an average of 5.99 in emotional support, 5.63 in classroom organization, and 2.72 in instructional support. We, at Gateway, promote a unified vision of quality and our CLASS data reflects a commitment to excellence and continuous program improvement.



KY SEED (System to Enhance Early Development) enhances the existing service delivery system to better meet the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of children age birth to 5 and their families, by increasing access to high quality integrated services and supports in communities across Kentucky. Gateway Head Start applied for funds to support parent participation in the Kentucky Head Start Association annual conference to be held the week of April 28<sup>th</sup> in Louisville. We are pleased to announce that five parents will be selected to participate through SEED funding.

### Gateway Community Action Transportation Program

We recently received an Appalachian Grant from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to purchase a new vehicle for our Transportation Program. The grant was 100% Federal dollars which required no match from our agency. The vehicle is a 2014 Dodge Standard Mini-Van. The new van is smaller than our previous van which will make it easier to maneuver around town and is also much more fuel efficient. The van is capable of transporting five passengers comfortably.

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**Gateway Community Action is an "Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer"**