

GATEWAY COMMUNITY ACTION

Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2017

Weatherization Success Story

Ms. Stacy is 88 years young, living by herself in her 1470 sq. ft. home she and her husband built in 1960. Ms. Stacy's initial contact with the weatherization program was through the Rowan County outreach office where she applied for the Weatherization Assistance Program in June 2016. After five months of being on our waiting list we were able to contact Ms. Stacy and begin the evaluation process.

Dwelling Needs Evaluator, Jessie Stidham made contact with Ms. Stacy and scheduled a time to begin the evaluation. As with most homes, our evaluation determined that additional insulation and air infiltration reduction was the most immediate needs of the home. Pre-inspection blower door testing showed the home to have some pretty severe air leakage resulting in loss of valuable heat and a waste of energy. As expected, a visual inspection of the insulation in the attic and crawl space showed an inadequate amount of insulation. Further testing also revealed that the walls were not insulated at all. The evaluation also identified other areas that could be improved upon to help Ms. Stacy save additional money such as pipe insulation, energy efficient light bulbs and low flow showerheads.

To remedy the air infiltration issues, our crew of Anthony Wilson and Tim Spencer installed weather stripping around windows and doors. Caulking was used around plumbing and electrical penetrations and other areas. A new outside door was hung on Ms. Stacy's back porch that had been boxed in and was open to her kitchen. Window kits and a new door threshold took care of the rest of the air infiltration issues.

The attic insulation was increased to an R-30 by way of blow in cellulose and the crew installed R-19 batts in the crawlspace. The walls were a little more difficult as they required the vinyl siding to be removed. One inch holes were drilled between each stud so cellulose insulation could be blown into the wall cavity. The additional insulation also helped improve the air infiltration issues.

Ms. Stacy's forced air furnace was working properly and only required a thorough cleaning. Some of her duct work was leaking and mastic was used to seal the leaks.

To complete the weatherization services, smoke alarms and a carbon monoxide detector was installed.

Ms. Stacy was a delight to work for and she was very grateful and complimentary of the work she received through the Weatherization Assistance Program.



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From the Executive Director's Desk



Happy New Year! I trust everyone had a wonderful holiday season, hopefully finding time for family, friends, and relaxation. It's always difficult to get back into the swing of a normal schedule after the festivities of November and December.

We hope everyone enjoyed our winter training and luncheon. It was a treat to have all employees together. As you may remember, we asked that you complete a survey on dental and vision insurance. We appreciate your input and after reviewing the results, we are pleased to announce dental, vision, and life insurance will become part of our fringe benefit package. You will receive detailed information in the coming weeks.

We've completed the first stage of our marketing plan. Kristy Lewis, HR Director, introduced you to the phase I written protocol in December, which you can access on EWS. Please take a stroll about your work site and ensure any written information contains our new logo. We are working on Phase II which will include updating the logo on vehicles and large signs.

We are excited to announce that within the coming months, we will redesign our website. All employee related information will be housed on EWS. The anticipated outcome of our new website, when complete, will be a modern, user friendly, easy to navigate site for visitors to quickly become acquainted with us and our services.

We engage in so many exciting activities throughout our daily routines, yet we aren't always efficient nor consistent in sharing our work with each other, clients, community partners, and business leaders. We have an excellent forum in Facebook and will be looking at strategies to help us better "tell our story" in the coming months.

Our first priority and most important responsibility is exceptional client services. We must always have a "client centered" attitude and implement the policies set forth in the customer service protocol. Leah Kohr, Director of Community Initiatives, provided an exceptional session on customer service and the expected protocols set forth by Gateway during August 2016 in-service. If you have questions or need additional clarification, please contact your program director.

We're all about being the best we can be so let us know if you have ideas or suggestions on how we can better serve our communities. It takes everyone working together, embracing a team approach to bring about positive results. We're glad you've chosen to be a part of the Gateway team and thank you for your work and dedication to our mission. Let's make 2017 the best year yet!

And now we welcome the new year, full of things that have never been.

~ Rainer Maria Rilke

Most Sincere Wishes,
Charlene Engle
Executive Director

SPREAD THE WORD...FILE YOUR TAXES FOR FREE!



Visit MyFreeTaxes.com or call **855-698-9435**.

Gateway Community Action in partnership with the United Way of the Bluegrass is sponsoring the VITA Program (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance).

Anyone with an income not exceeding \$54,000 can do their own tax preparation on the MyFreeTaxes website. You can file federal and state taxes for free. This year there is a new software program on the website powered by H&R Block. It is question driven and all you have to do is answer the questions with your information. Your answers will allow the program to put the right information on the right line of the return.

There is a computer lab at the Gateway main office in West Liberty and you are free to use it to do your own return. In addition, there are three "Super Saturdays" available at the West Liberty office where you can have your taxes prepared on-site by a volunteer preparer. You must make an appointment to use the lab and/or have your taxes prepared on-site.

Saturday Dates

February 4th	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
February 11th	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
March 11th	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

To schedule a time for the computer lab, set an appointment with a tax preparer for one of the dates above, or to get information about tax preparation at other locations please call **606-743-3133 x105**.

LIHEAP & CSBG Happenings

A Publication of :

Gateway Community
Action Agency
151 University Dr.
West Liberty, KY 41472
606-743-3133

Charlene Engle
Executive Director

Kristy Gamble
Chief Finance Officer

Tristan Daniel
Technology Director

Kristy Lewis
Human Resource/EEO
Director

Linda Burton
Executive Administrative
Assistant

Wallace Rose
Weatherization Director

Wendy Crain-Lawson
WIOA Director

Martina Roe
Head Start Director

Rebecca Allen
CSBG Director

Leah Kohr
Director of Community
Initiatives

LIHEAP Subsidy is complete!!! LIHEAP staff served more than 2,300 households. Those households received a total of \$363,000. LIHEAP Crisis began on January 9th. Individuals who are in a crisis situation should contact their outreach office to schedule an appointment.



CSBG is offering five (5) scholarships! There is one scholarship available in each county. Each scholarship has a value of \$400. The scholarship is available to anyone who meets CSBG guidelines and who is enrolled or has been accepted to a college or vocational school. If you or anyone you know wishes to apply, they can pick up an application in their local outreach office or at Gateway's central office. The deadline to submit applications is February 28th.

CSBG now coordinates Bath County commodities. If you, or someone you know is 60 or over, is at or below 125% of poverty, and wishes to apply please contact the Bath County Outreach office. For further information, call 606-674-2502 and speak with an Outreach staff member. Pictured are: Regina Yerian, LeAnn Gullett, Debbie Helton, and Rachael Crouch.



Fathers and Families Together



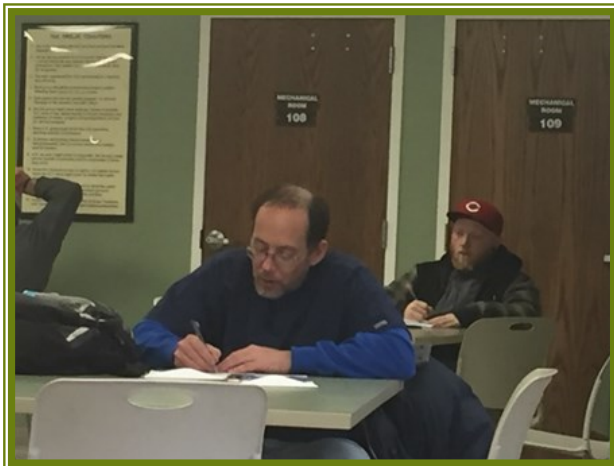
The Fatherhood Team was blessed during the holidays to share some special time with our clients at Shepherds Shelter and Morehead Inspiration Center. Both of these facilities provide adult substance abuse programs. Gateway works with these partners to help the residents learn and manage their relationship/communication skills, parenting skills, and finances. In addition to reviewing the Fatherhood course materials for the end of the class, the team served the clients a holiday meal and provided the materials necessary for clients to write cards to their families, specifically their children. They were excited to send Christmas cards to their loved ones and the Fatherhood Team were excited to share some holiday cheer.

In addition, we received a card from a client at the Little Sandy Correctional Complex:

“Dear Rhonda and Team - I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you all for caring enough to show it through your programs, your kindness and your dedication. I am praying for you and your families. God is working in many ways to bless you. Happy Holidays Gateway and thank you – A.U.”



Finally, a shout out to the Fatherhood Team fathers who share their knowledge, wisdom encouragement, and authentic selves with clients every day, but most importantly they LIVE the example as good fathers every day on and off the job. Thank you - Brian Holbrook, Client Advocate; Travis Green, Class Facilitator and Kenneth Lane, Job Coach.



WIOA News

Cindy Hurt and Lori Sorrell, Career Advisors with our Kentucky Career Center JobSight and WIOA Program earned a certification for: Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF) on Thursday, January 19th.



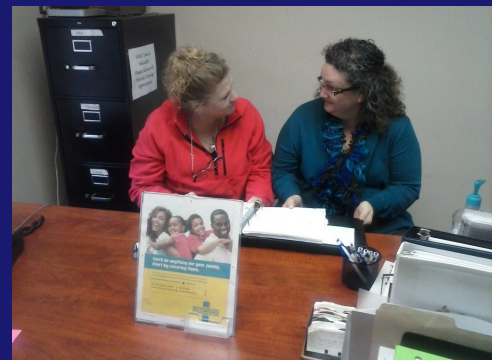
GCDF credential holders are trained to help people, both individually and in a group setting, make informed decisions when considering their own career development. Through the use of best practices, various assessment tools, and career development models GCDFs equip each individual with the knowledge and skills to embark on their professional journey.



KENTUCKY HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE

More than 74,000 Kentuckians have signed up for health insurance through HealthCare.gov as of Jan. 14. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released the numbers. Open enrollment continues through Jan. 31. Photo attached.

Open Enrollment ends Tuesday, January 31st if you need to apply. Please call your local Application Assister, Kim Plank at 606-207-2404.



Employee Anniversaries

February

Teresa Debord 25 years
Caroline Smith 5 years

March

Judy Begley 5 years
Shannon Donaldson 8 years
Shaina Havens 1 year
Jennifer James 6 years
Kemberly Lee 1 year
Colby Litteral 6 years
Scott Utterback 8 years

April

Tim Cox 1 year
Travis Green 1 year
Brian Holbrook 1 year
Tammy Ray 5 years



Housing Updates

The Unemployment Bridge Program (UBP) continues to receive new applications weekly and the turnaround time for approvals is averaging 15-30 days. If you know of anyone who has lost a job due to lay-off or disability, please have them contact Tiffany Taul-Scruggs (tiffany.taul@gcscap.org or 859-404-7641) to see if we can help with mortgage payments.

One client took time to send a Christmas card:



Thank you for all your help and support you have given my family! I hope you and yours have a wonderful Christmas!! – M.J.”

Transportation Updates

Once again Gateway will be applying for the 5311 Non-urbanized (Rural) Area Transportation Program Grant with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. Applications are due March 1, 2017.

Through the Section 5311 Program, the Division of Public Transit provides administrative, operating and capital assistance to public transportation projects in rural areas. As a part of the application process Gateway is required to hold a public meeting. That meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Transit Center located at 260 Prestonsburg St., West Liberty, Kentucky. For more information contact Evan O'Neal at 606-743-7015.

Head Start: Making a Dream Come True!

We often forget during the holidays that there are so many families in the world that are struggling just to put food on the table and provide a warm comfortable place for the children to lie down at night. That's why Gateway Head Start staff work with local organizations and businesses to ensure those needs are being met.

Ms. Scott enrolled her child in Head Start a few months ago. She struggled as a single parent but always remained positive about life.

As Ms. Scott became more comfortable with our staff, she developed a sense of trust. Ms. Scott approached our staff to seek resources that were most needed within her family. As our staff learned about the family situation, it was discovered that Ms. Scott's family was in need of beds. After consulting with a Walmart associate, we were able to secure two beds for Ms. Scott's family.

This year, thanks to the generosity of Walmart, two children will be able to lie down at night in a warm comfortable bed.



Outreach Offices

Bath County
108 Gudgell St.
Owingsville, KY
(606) 674-2502

Menifee County
28B Bible Camp Lane
Frenchburg, KY
(606) 768-2369

Montgomery County
103 Bruce Professional Plaza
Suite A
Mt. Sterling, KY
(859) 498-5345

Morgan County
151 University Drive
West Liberty, KY
(606) 743-3133

Rowan County
136 Lee Ave Suite E
Morehead, KY
(606) 784-7735

Head Start Centers

Bath: 606-674-2766

Botts: 606-768-4175

ELC: 859-497-2124

Camargo: 859-497-8776

Frenchburg: 606-768-3818

East Valley: 606-522-8178

Wrigley: 606-743-2419

Morgan Central: 606-743-2252

Upcoming Dates & Things to Know

January 31	Open Enrollment for Kentucky Health Benefit Exchange
February 4th	VITA Tax Services, Gateway Central Office 9 am - 2 pm
February 11th	VITA Tax Services, Gateway Central Office 9 am - 2 pm
February 28th	CSBG Scholarship Deadline
March	Head Start Spring Fling (information sent home from each site)
March 11th	VITA Tax Services, Gateway Central Office 9 am - 2 pm
March 6 – April 27	Job Club will begin in Menifee and Morgan Counties (each Monday at 1 pm at the Menifee County Public Library, each Wednesday at 1pm at the Morgan County Gov. Building/County Judge's Office).
March 31st	Agency Employee Fair, Central Office, West Liberty 10 am - 2 pm
March—April	Head Start Registration (dates will be posted on the Website)
April	Head Start Pizza with Pops (dates sent home from each site)
April 1st	Rowan County Baby Shower, Morehead Conference Center 10 am - 1 pm

Gateway Community Action Annual Winter Training Photo 2016

