

First year as Camp KELLY!

Camp Kelly's first season was very successful! Over 450 campers of all ages participated in our overnight basketball, traditional resident, father/son, and women's camp programming. At the same time, we hosted 350 day campers at Project Hope, which UNC has been operating since 1970. All campers participated in activities ranging from archery and rock climbing to boating and swimming in Oxbow Lake. Of course, the most important activities at camp are confidence building and developing connections that will last a lifetime.

One parent wrote in an end of season survey, "I feel the little voice in each of my kids changed from 'you can get through this' to 'you can do this and MASTER this too!' Each year camp nurtures the growth of my children and constantly challenges them to believe in themselves. ... What a priceless gift, confidence and self-reliance ~ these gifts are awarded at camp each year."

The agency is extremely grateful for the opportunity to work with the children of Northeastern PA each summer, and we look forward to the 2018 season. Registration will open on February 1, 2018.

The Capital Campaign, making the necessary improvements to camp, is still ongoing. Over the winter, we hope to continue renovation of all the bathrooms and shower houses, but the campaign is short of needed funds. Please consider contributing by going online at <http://www.uncnepa.org/camp-kelly-capital-campaign/> Your gift will help make a difference and you will be part of creating lasting memories.



Before and After!



Women's Weekend



Resident Campers



Camp Director
Kelly Langan



Flagpole Ceremony



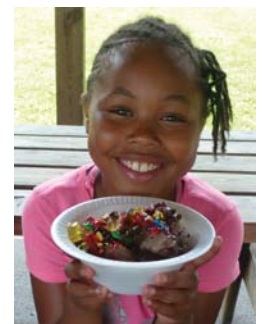
Father/Son Weekend



Inaugural Boy's Resident Campers



Basketball



Enjoying a sundae
donated by a team from
DaVita Dialysis



Summer
2017

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Autumn is upon us. It seems just yesterday we were gearing up for our first season at Camp Kelly. This time of year brings new challenges and opportunities for UNC as we work with our child care children to prepare for new teachers, new classes, and -for some- new schools. In our after school and teen programs, the staff are busy preparing for the incoming Leadership class and recruiting volunteers for new and renewing programs at the Oppenheim Center for the Arts. Our Community Services staff are preparing for the Thanksgiving Food Distribution and a new rush of families seeking much needed heating assistance for the cold months that are sure to come.



Michael Hanley

As we continue to prepare with anticipation and excitement for the days ahead, the people of Florida and Texas are not far from our minds. We have been in contact with our sister agencies in Houston that have been hit hard by Harvey through our membership organization, the Alliance for Strong Communities and Families. We are expecting to hear from our counterparts in Florida in the next few days. The staff of these agencies are at the forefront of the relief efforts, working hand-in-hand with our brave first responders. Much like our staff at UNC, they are the first to be called upon to offer immediate relief that will enable families to transition to fruitful and independent lives. You will see a local example of this in this very newsletter: the section called "Assisting Families in Crisis." This story is about the response of UNC's staff to the crisis at Valley View Estates in Archbald. No doubt the two hurricanes present challenges on a much greater scale, but I am sure our sister organizations will rise to the occasion and build on the neighborhood relationships they have developed over many decades; they will deliver relief that will build even stronger and more resilient communities, as they have for well over a century. Please remember them in your thoughts and prayers in the weeks and months ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Hanley".

Governor Wolf in South Side



Governor Tom Wolf visited South Side on August 4th to see UNC's redevelopment of the neighborhood. Governor Wolf was impressed with the transformation in this section of Scranton. Also on the tour were Senator John Blake, County Commissioner Pat O'Malley, Representative Marty Flynn, Mayor Bill Courtright, and a number of local and state officials.

Leaders in Training



These Leaders in Training (LIT) were rewarded a trip to Niagara Falls after a year of hard work to attain their academic, personal, and community goals. For many of them, it was the first time leaving the region; for all of them, it was the first time leaving the country to see a wonder of the world. This trip gave participants an opportunity to broaden their world view while taking in the beauty of North America.

AROUND THE AGENCY

Family Learning Grant

UNC's Community Education and Revitalization Department is excited to announce the receipt of another four year Family Literacy Grant. With this new grant, we are able to increase the number of families served and grow our program by adding two additional locations. We have continued our partnership with the Scranton School District and have also created a partnership with the Lackawanna County Head Start. Classes will now be held onsite at the Cedar Avenue location, as well as McNichol's Plaza Elementary, John Adam's Elementary and the Greenwood Head Start.

The Family Literacy Program assists families with children 3rd grade and younger by addressing the literacy needs of all members of the family. There are four components of the program that help families make sustainable changes towards self-sufficiency including interactive literacy activities between parents and children, parenting education, adult education and early childhood education. This program promotes parents' involvement in their children's education. Parents also learn the skills needed to be better prepared for workforce training, employment and civic engagement.

Civic Engagement

UNC is still working hard to ensure that our clients exercise their right to vote! Our Civic Engagement team is focused on the local general election in Scranton this year and is committed to non-partisan education of our clients about the power of their vote. UNC clients make up a huge part of NEPA and their voice matters.

SAVE THE DATE

CHOCOHOLIC FROLIC

October 22, 2017

Scranton Cultural Center

Don't miss this decadently delicious evening tasting all chocolate creations masterfully prepared by bakers and chefs.

Proceeds benefit UNC's SCOLA programs. More information can be found at www.uncnepa.org/events.



Assisting Families in Crisis

In the early evening of July 26, nearly forty families living at Valley View Estates in Archbald were notified that their homes were condemned as a result of the water being shut off. The residents pay a monthly lot rent which includes the provision of water and sewer services, however, the owner failed to make payments resulting in the shut off.

By 11:00 the following morning, UNC staff joined a team of community partners on the scene. They began knocking on doors one by one to meet families and assess the situation. They gathered information to determine what options may exist for relocation. Due to their quick response and genuine compassion, they quickly earned the trust and cooperation of the residents. They also learned that while many of the trailers were in deplorable condition, the families' greatest resource was the support system that existed in the park. They had come to rely on one another and considered themselves a large, extended family who couldn't imagine being displaced and separated.

After another day of hard work, the water had been restored and the owner was being held accountable for his actions. The immediate crisis was averted and a light was shone on the conditions of the park. UNC will continue to explore options to assist the residents in the long term and attempt to end the cyclical poverty that has plagued their community for far too long.



UNC NEWS

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FARM TO FORK



Over 100 guests enjoyed dining on a delicious farm fresh dinner prepared by Epicurean Delight and dancing to the tunes of the East End Vipers. This third annual event supports UNC's Community Health Department. Thank you to Deb Trickel for the gorgeous flower arrangements and homemade granola party favors. Thank you to our sponsors: Toyota Scranton, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Amerihealth Caritas Northeast, Grimm Construction, Geisinger, PNC, Lamar, and WNEP.

DISCO SNOW WHITE



UNC's Youth Theatre Program presented Disco Snow White to a packed audience on Thursday, August 31 at UNC's Oppenheim Center for the Arts. Rosemary Hays and Rudy Caporaso from Rev Theater in New York directed and choreographed the premier showing. Rosey and Rudy magically transform stage fright into confidence and our youth always amaze the audience. The cast and crew let us know that performing on stage was life altering!