

UNC hosts first ever FunFest at Nay Aug Park

UNC hosted a free event for the public, our First Annual FunFest, on Saturday, June 23 at Nay Aug Park. FunFest featured activities for all ages and the purpose of the event was to acquaint the public with all the programs and activities of our agency. UNC welcomed over 300 people to FunFest, which featured a magic performance by Mike Simon Magic, a taekwondo demonstration from IronWorks Academy, kids' Zumba classes, an Aikido demonstration by Steve Corbett, cooking lessons from Marywood University, the Scranton Police Department's K9 Unit, free hot dogs, facepainting and much more! Thank you to everyone who helped make this event possible. To view photos from the day's event please go to our Facebook or Flickr pages which have links on our website.



Youth arts program expanding thanks to grant & new partners

United Neighborhood Centers recently received funding from the Lackawanna County Arts Engage Program, an collaboration of Lackawanna County Children and Youth Services and the Lackawanna County Arts and Culture Department, to both continue and expand its youth arts initiatives. The Illumination Youth Arts Program, as it is officially known, kicked off in early September but with some fresh new opportunities for teens. Joining the already popular programs of photography and theater will be creative writing, dance, intensive drama workshops with the REV Theatre Company based out of New York City, and two interactive art installations to be completed in conjunction with the arts group called the Pop Up Studio (of which, three out of four founding members are part of our Young Professionals Auxiliary Board). In addition, UNC has also partnered with Penn Foster to complete a new program where 10 teens will be able to work weekly toward a professional photography certification from the school.



UNC NEWS

Newsletter of United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania

SCOLA Learning Center/Elm Street open new offices

UNC officially moved the operations of SCOLA to a new location beginning on Tuesday, June 19. The brand new SCOLA Learning Center is located at 629 Cedar Avenue, in the first level of the Willow Apartments which opened earlier this year. The SCOLA Learning Center will host all of the program's adult and family literacy initiatives. UNC has officially closed the prior office location of SCOLA at 2013 Boulevard Avenue in Scranton. All classes will now be held at the new office. Joining SCOLA at the new office in South Side will be UNC's Elm Street Revitalization Project. The new office will be open Monday thru Thursday from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. and on Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The phone number for the building is (570) 346-6203.



BEFORE



AFTER

Voter registration initiative enhances UNC civic engagement



UNC is excited to announce a new voter registration initiative across the agency and Lackawanna County. "Encouraging civic engagement is an important part of the mission of United Neighborhood Centers," said Michael Hanley, Executive Director. "There is no more effective means of civic engagement than the ballot box." The agency will be strengthening and serving the community in a variety of capacities when it comes to voter registration and getting out the vote on Election Day. Beginning on Tuesday, September 4th, all of UNC's ten centers and buildings will be working to help community members register to vote including those first-time voters, and people who need to change their name or residency.

Additionally, UNC will also be helping community members register to vote in all City of Scranton public housing developments in collaboration with Friends of the Poor. Voter registration will continue through Tuesday, October 9. UNC's staff has also been trained in the new state Voter Identification Law and the agency recognizes that some people may have trouble obtaining the necessary ID. Therefore, UNC staff

will work with any individual in need of the proper identification to vote in the upcoming election. The agency will also be coordinating rides to the polls on Election Day for any community member not able to get there on their own.

Project Hope celebrates its 42nd year thanks to Weinberg Fnd.

One hundred and fifty additional youth were able to beat the heat and enjoy an enriching summer camp experience thanks to a recent grant of \$100,000 over the next two years from The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. With the additional funding, UNC was able to accomodate over 500 Lackawanna County youth this year. Project Hope celebrated its 42nd year in 2012 and ran camp from July 2nd through August 3rd, Monday-Friday, at Camp St. Andrew in Tunkhannock. Enrollment for next year will begin sometime in May 2013.



Join us for the 8th Annual Chocoholic Frolic on Sunday, October 21 at the Scranton Cultural Center from 6-8PM. Patron tickets get a one hour early admission.

Tickets are \$26 in advance, \$30 at the door and \$50 for patrons. They can be purchased at UNC, by calling 570-346-0759 or online at www.uncnepa.org/donate. Benefits SCOLA.

Did you know? Next year is our 90TH ANNIVERSARY!
Stay tuned for more exciting news and celebrations in the next issue.

Check us out online
by scanning the code
to the left with your
mobile device!



All questions regarding this publication should be referred to Allison Woody, Director of Grants and Communications, at awoody@uncnepa.org. If you wish to no longer receive this newsletter, please contact Bob O'Brien at (570) 346-0759.

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425 Alder Street Scranton, PA 18505

UNC NEWS



Summer
2012

Volume 16 Issue 3

Non-profit
U.S. Postage
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Scranton, PA
Permit No. 328

Letter From the Executive Director

Summer is over, and a very successful summer it has been. We are relieved that Project Hope continued for another year thanks to the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. They provided the gap funding for this past summer with a promise of funds for next year, as well. If our other funding streams remain steady, we will be able to complete our 43rd year of Project Hope in 2013. This funding challenge for Project Hope is just one example of the challenges UNC faces every day in attempting to maintain our programs and services in a time when they are needed the most.



Michael Hanley

As we move toward 2013, we are proud to begin planning for our 90th anniversary year. We made it through the "Great Depression" and we are surviving the "Great Recession". We remain optimistic that our best years are ahead. In just the past few weeks, we have been successful in attracting new programs to the agency that will enhance the quality of life for our teens and young people with expanded opportunities in the arts. We also received funding to provide additional housing and services to homeless families and a grant to provide community education programs that will help ensure fair housing opportunities to all our citizens. As you see in this newsletter, we are also engaged in a voter registration drive and assisting voters to meet the new ID requirements to comply with the voter laws in Pennsylvania. This effort continues a long tradition of "settlement house" agencies to encourage civic engagement in the people we serve.

As we plan to celebrate our 90th birthday, we look forward to the future as a time of opportunity for the agency and for the people we serve. Thank you for being a part of our journey. We look forward to continuing for the next 90 years and beyond.

Young Professionals announce leaders

Members of the Young Professionals Auxiliary Board include:

Ryan Alpert, General Manager at Interstate Hotels and Resorts, Inc
Paul G. Batyko, Attorney at Rosenn, Jenkins & Greenwald, LLP
Sarah Fortunato, Account Executive at Entercom Communications
Joe Gluba, Assistant Professor of Architecture/Interior Architecture at Marywood University
Lauren Greenwood, Therapeutic Staff Support at Autism Behavioral Services, Inc.
Carrie Hodovanic, Human Resources Coordinator at The Wright Center
Jonathan Kalasinski, Physician Liaison and IT Coordinator at Advanced Imaging Specialists
Valerie Kiser, Principal Designer/Artist at Valerie Kiser Design
Ken Knelly, Executive Director of Communications & Marketing at Baptist Bible College
Ruth Koelewyn, Design Foundations Instructor at Marywood University
Jude McDonough, Financial Consultant at First Liberty Wealth Management
Michael Muller, Associate/Project Manager at Dx Dempsey
Carolyn Tugend Quinn, Academic Specialist at Educational Opportunity Centers
Eric Rogan, Senior Project Manager at SCE Environmental Group, Inc.
Pat Scanlon, Attorney at Minora, Minora, Colbassani, Krowiak & Mattioli
Alysia Sczafabo, Regional Sales Director/Community Outreach at Penn Foster
Lynn Scramuzza, Office Management and Part-time Professor of Communications at the University of Scranton
Eric Weinberg, Manager of Financial Services at Prudential Financial
Jaime Blandina Weinschenk, Operations Manager at Geisinger Health Systems
Jay Weinschenk, Client Relations Manager at Net Driven

For information on joining the Young Professionals Auxiliary Board, please contact Nancy Dressel at 570-346-0759 ext. 114.

Around the Agency

UNC and its Elm Street Revitalization team once again took part in the annual Arts on Fire Festival held at the Scranton Iron Furnaces from June 1-3. New this year was a planned educational day with students from South Scranton Intermediate who came to the site to learn about its history and see a live wood carving.



UNC has been awarded two separate grants from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. One will allow UNC to provide permanent supportive housing for homeless families. UNC will initiate a fair housing education and outreach program for five counties in NEPA with the second.

The Spotlight Youth Theater hosted its first performance of the year on June 22-24 at the West Side Senior Center. The youth participants performed "Willy Wonka" for the community and put on a show at UNC's FunFest held at Nay Aug Park. Over 50 children, ages 5-18, took part in the performances by being on stage, creating costumes and behind-the-scenes direction. The next show will be in the winter.



UNC was honored as the runner-up in the category of Arts & Culture at the recently held Nonprofit and Community Assistance Center Awards for the agency's Shutterbugs Youth Photography program. The program educates over 30 teens on digital photography, editing and more. UNC was also given a one year membership to NCAC.

The Elm Street Revitalization Project recently ended its annual summer events for the community. Some of the initiatives held included a South Side Yard Sale, a church history walking tour, summer arts and education programs in Connors Park (picture below shows community kids learning about the importance of recycling) and the third year of the Farmers' Market at the Scranton Iron Furnaces. The market will continue through October 2012.



Members of United Neighborhood Centers' staff and Board of Directors have been named to two separate Governor's Advisory Commissions. Cathy Hardaway, Director of Older Adults, was appointed to Governor Corbett's Advisory Commission on African American Affairs in May. Additionally, board member Ofelia Cardesa was named to the Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs in July. UNC is thankful to have such great representation in Harrisburg for the diverse clients we serve.



UNC took part in the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties' annual "Day of Caring", where we hosted over 85 volunteers across our agency locations from companies such as PPSL, PNC and VaxServe.



UNC was fortunate this year to be able to partner with the first ever Scranton Shakespeare Festival, as well as the REV Theatre Company out of NYC. The artists hosted drama workshops for youth in our three childcare centers.



The West Side Senior Center hosted a Hawaiian Luau in August where seniors decorated tables and wore their best festive costume.



Members of Temple Hesed's Board of Directors and community members generously sponsor 25 UNC childcare students in need of back-to-school supplies as part of their annual Backpack Giveaway Program.



UNC's Progressive Childcare Center recently graduated 10 youth from their preschool program. They were honored with a ceremony for family and friends.



On August 31, over 225 older adults from UNC's four senior centers- Mid valley, Carbondale, South Side and West Side- came together to celebrate the end of summer at McDade Park with a picnic.