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Transfer of Former Camp St. Andrew Finalized



UNC is happy to announce that the agency has finalized an agreement with the Diocese of Scranton to permanently transfer possession of the former Camp St. Andrew to UNC.

Thanks to the generosity of the Diocese and overwhelming community support, UNC will be able to continue to offer the quality overnight camp programs previously hosted at the site, as well as the agency's Project Hope day camp.

While the beloved core traditions of camp will remain the same, the property will feature a new name: "UNC's Camp Kelly." The name, chosen by a committee of former campers, staff, and parents, was selected to honor Monsignor Joseph P. Kelly, who played a vital role at the resident camp for decades and founded Project Hope at UNC more than 45 years ago.

"As strong believers in the importance of quality summer programs for youth, the Board and staff of UNC are proud to be able to continue the legacy of the former Camp St. Andrew. We look forward to honoring past traditions through the continuation of the youth camps, as well as identifying ways to expand usage of the property through other programs that benefit our community," said Michael Hanley, Chief Executive Officer of UNC.

In the coming months, more information about camp registration and a capital campaign to conduct restoration projects at the site will be posted on UNC's website: www.uncnepa.org.

Decades Later, Project Hope Campers Give Back to UNC

Anyone who has been involved with UNC's Project Hope summer camp has seen first-hand how much the program means to the youngsters who participate. However, UNC recently received an additional reminder of the long-term impact that camp can make on a child's life.

UNC was contacted by a group of former residents of the Hilltop and Valley View Housing Developments. Now adult professionals with families of their own, the group recently held a reunion/fundraiser to benefit Project Hope, which they attended in the 1970s! In total, they raised \$1,500 for the program, and the stories they had to tell were just as valuable!



Committee members shared recollections of being ostracized at school and by the parents of classmates because they lived in the housing developments. However, attending Project Hope was an important bright spot in their childhoods and a place where, for once, they felt like "normal kids." Family vacations during the summer were not something they could afford, so camp was their chance to see a world outside of the developments. They are proud to now be able to give back to the community and help ensure new generations of children are able to enjoy the Project Hope experience!



As part of Wegmans' 100th Anniversary Celebration, the company donated a tractor trailer full of food and backpacks loaded with school supplies to UNC's Angel's Attic. Thank you, Wegmans!



UNC's 12th Annual Chocoholic Frolic drew more than 300 attendees and raised funds to support adult English as a Second Language and literacy education programs.



The Joanne Aronsohn Monahan Foundation (dba Still Flying.org) donated iPads to UNC's active older adult community centers, along with ongoing lessons in their use.

Letter From the Chief Executive Officer

As autumn winds down, we are settling into our new office at the Keystone Industrial Park, however, we are already anxious to get back into South Scranton. Planning for redevelopment of the Peoples Security Bank Building on Cedar Avenue continues, and once completed, the building will house our offices on the upper floors. The first floor will include a business incubator for small, women-owned businesses operated by Scranton Area Foundation's Women in Philanthropy Program, as well as continue to house a branch of the bank. Meanwhile, The Clinics at Scranton Primary Care are preparing to open their new clinic at our former offices on Alder Street, sharing the site with our Community Health Program.



Michael Hanley

Work on the bank building is just one of the new initiatives here at UNC. We also continue to provide our programs and services that meet the ongoing needs of low-income families. Much of our energy this time of year is devoted to our Thanksgiving Food Basket Program in coordination with WNEP's Feed-A-Friend campaign. We expect to serve in excess of 1,700 families with children in Scranton and Carbondale, where we partner with the Upper Valley Project Hope Committee. At Christmas, we will also provide thousands of donated toys for parents to bring home and put under the tree.

These programs are community-driven, paid for by local donations and distributed by volunteers. Please give us a call if you would like to get involved. We would not be able to operate these services if it weren't for the generosity of so many in our community who make this a truly great place to live.

Michael Hanley

We Need Your Help This Holiday Season

For many UNC clients, the holidays mean a struggle simply to provide a festive family meal or gift for a child. To help make the season brighter for these individuals, UNC will once again host its annual food and toy distribution programs. For Thanksgiving, the agency will partner with WNEP-TV's Feed-A-Friend Program and the Upper Valley Project Hope Committee to serve families with children in the Scranton and Carbondale areas. Registration for the program began November 1st and each family that signs up will receive all the food needed to make a traditional Thanksgiving feast. More than 1,700 families are expected to be served. Additionally, planning has begun for UNC's Holiday Toy Store, which is offered at no cost to registered families through donations provided by Toys for Tots and other community partners. Last year, nearly 600 families received more than 3,000 toys. For more information about either of these programs, please contact UNC's Community Services office at 570-343-8835. To volunteer for the Thanksgiving food distribution, or make a donation in support of the program, please visit www.uncnepa.org.

Around the Agency

Farmers Market

UNC's South Side Farmers Market, which is now accepting SNAP benefits, moved indoors for the winter season as of October 15. The Market, which takes place on Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. will be located in the community room of 509 Cedar Avenue, Scranton through the end of April.



Children in UNC's child care centers are currently participating in an exciting educational program called "Adventures in Flight." Funded through a grant from Lockheed Martin to promote STEM education, the youngsters are learning about different types of aviation, including planes and rockets. Classroom lessons are being paired with hands on activities that include experimenting with kites and model rockets.

Join in the Revelry!

Party Gras

February 24, 2017 - 6:00 p.m.
Radisson Hotel

It's Party Gras time! We provide the feathered masks and beads for this evening of cajun dining, dancing, gambling, and fortune telling. Proceeds benefit UNC's crisis intervention services.



UNC is proud to announce that the agency has been selected as a grantee for the Aetna Foundation's Cultivating Healthy Communities initiative! This national program is designed to promote healthy eating and active living, strengthen health equity, and advance innovations that make it possible for people to have more healthy days. UNC was awarded more than \$85,000 for a two-year program to expand the South Side Farmers Market and encourage healthy eating and gardening habits in the neighborhood, particularly for foreign born residents.

Ethnic Carol Sing

UNC will host the Ethnic Carol Sing on Wednesday, December 14 at New Life Church in Scranton to celebrate the holiday traditions of all cultures. If you or someone you know is interested in performing a holiday song or dance for this unique event, please contact Katie Kearney at 570-346-6203.



Members of UNC's youth theatre program will present a holiday production of "Elf" on December 9 at 6:00 p.m. and December 10 at 2:00 p.m. at the Oppenheim Center for the Arts in Scranton. There is no cost to attend and the public is welcome!



UNC received a \$5,000 grant from The UPS Foundation to support free English as a Second Language and citizenship education programming.



With United Way funding, UNC is providing transportation and support for eight young women from agency youth programs to take part in the University of Scranton's Girls Who Code club, which encourages interest in the computer sciences field.



Employees from Wells Fargo's NEPA region held a Back to School Drive, donating dozens of backpacks filled with school supplies to UNC families.

UNC NEWS

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Questions regarding this publication may be directed to Christine Zavaskas, Director of Grants and Communications, at czavaskas@uncnepa.org. If you wish to no longer receive this newsletter, please contact Bob O'Brien at (570) 346-0759.

UNCDC Awarded Tax Credits for Project In Jim Thorpe

UNC's nonprofit housing and economic development subsidiary, United Neighborhood Community Development Corporation (UNCDC), will expand into new territory with a project in Jim Thorpe, PA. UNCDC was recently approved for tax credits from the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency to complete the renovation and preservation of the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Building, an architecturally-significant building that currently provides housing for low-income seniors. UNCDC will work to repair the building, including its elevator, roof, exterior, and interior components to ensure that this affordable housing will continue to be available to area seniors well into the future. The project is expected to begin in January 2017 and take a year to complete. Residents will continue to live in the building throughout renovations.



Civic Engagement Initiative



Leading up to the election, UNC continued efforts to encourage clients to vote. Earlier this year, the agency conducted a voter registration drive after discovering that more than 50% of UNC clients were not registered voters. In addition to offering voter registration forms at UNC offices, staff coordinated a National Voter Registration Day event in September. A few days before the election, UNC staff coordinated a phone bank to make voting reminder calls to more than one thousand clients. The agency also offered free transportation to the polls on Election Day. The purpose of these efforts were not to advocate on behalf of any certain candidate or party, but rather to encourage clients to make their voices heard.