

## Active Older Adult Centers Host Open House Week

In celebration of Older Americans Month, our four Active Older Adult Centers hosted a variety of events during an Open House week in May.

Mayor Courtwright had cake at the South Side Active Older Adult Center.



Some of these events included visits from public officials, as well as many other activities, including line dancing, Tai Chi, yoga, a Memorial Day party, and more.



Dan Ginsburg, a UNC board member, led square dancing at the West Side Active Older Adult Center.

We were thrilled to have this opportunity to showcase all the exciting things happening at our Active Older Adult Centers.

Memorial Day partygoers enjoyed live music and line dancing at the Mid Valley Active Older Adult Center.



A group from the Carbondale Active Older Adult Center completed the Penn State Cooperative Extension Nutrition Links Program.

## Thanks for Your Generosity!



UNC participated in the United Way's Youth Day of Caring on May 16. We had several volunteers from St. Clare's/St. Paul's who did some planting, organizing, cleaning, and more in various locations throughout UNC. Many thanks for all your help!



With your help, UNC was able to raise nearly \$2,500 on NEPA Match Day. Thank you for helping us reach our goal!



Spring  
2018

## LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As I write this message, there are still over 2,000 immigrant children being held in detention centers across the country, waiting to be reunited with their parents. As a father and grandfather, my heart breaks, as there but for the grace of God go my family. As a social worker, I fear for the future of these children and the scars they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. As an American, I am appalled that the country I love would treat tired, poor and desperate families with such disregard.



Michael Hanley

In the SCOLA Program at United Neighborhood Centers, we teach immigrants and refugees to speak English, we help them assimilate into American society, and we witness as they grow more comfortable in their new surroundings and begin to open businesses and buy homes in our struggling neighborhoods.

Many of these families have experienced unbelievable hardships in their journey to Northeastern Pennsylvania, many fleeing certain death and living for years in refugee camps with little hope, fighting hunger and seeing their families killed. To them, America is an unbelievable paradise—a paradise that we who have been born here take for granted, many turning a blind eye to the suffering of others.

I hear the rhetoric about how immigrants bring crime when in fact studies have shown time and time again that it takes three generations of assimilation for immigrant communities to catch up to the crime rates of traditional neighborhoods across the United States. Additionally, a report from the US Department of Health and Human Services found that in the past 10 years, immigrants contributed \$63 billion to the US economy over and above what the government spent.

### UNC Hosts Annual International Dinner



UNC's Community Revitalization & Education department hosted their annual International Dinner on April 26. The evening included a potluck dinner, featuring delicious dishes from countries all over the world, a recognition of the department's hardworking volunteers, and a celebration of the new citizens who have completed our citizenship program this year.

For the first time in many years, the population of Scranton has grown, and this I believe can be directly attributed to the new immigrants moving into our city and being welcomed into our neighborhoods and our churches, synagogues, and mosques, as were so many of our ancestors. They are invigorating our neighborhoods with new energy and enthusiasm.

I am proud of the outpouring of support in this community for our new neighbors. It seems the rest of the country can take lessons from the good people of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

A handwritten signature in black ink.



## AROUND THE AGENCY

### Youth Programs Wrap Up Another Successful Year



UNC's youth department put on a production of the Big Bad Musical, featuring more than 25 children, in May. The free performances were enjoyed by all!



Participants in Leaders in Training visited the University of Scranton campus several times this spring to participate in various activities based on science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.

### Save the Date!



August 18, 2018  
Stone Meadow Gardens  
1273 Country Club Rd  
Clarks Summit

Join us for a gourmet dinner by State Street Grill, prepared with fresh food from vendors who participate in UNC's South Side Farmers Market.

The reception begins at 6:00 pm, followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. Enjoy music and Marilake wines throughout the evening. Proceeds benefit UNC's Community Health Department.

**RSVP by Aug. 3 at (570) 346-0759 ext. 114 or [uncnepa.org/farmtofork](http://uncnepa.org/farmtofork)**

### UNC Participates in Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community



On June 16, UNC participated in the first NEPA Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community. Due to some friendly competition within UNC and the generosity of our community, we managed to raise nearly \$4,000, all of which comes right back to UNC and our programs. Many thanks to Highmark for inviting us to participate in their inaugural walk in Northeastern Pennsylvania!

### UNCDC Hosts Grand Opening of Lehigh Coal & Navigation



On May 24, the United Neighborhood Community Development Corporation hosted the grand opening of the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Building in Jim Thorpe. The building, which provides housing for older adults, was completely refaced and renovated, including the facades of the building, new windows and signage, and updates to residential apartments.



# UNC NEWS

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## UNCDC to break ground in Carbondale



The United Neighborhood Community Development Corporation has secured funding to begin renovations to the former Carbondale General Hospital. The plans include turning the former hospital into a mix of older adult housing and an older adult community center, and to construct nine new buildings, which will be a mix of apartments and town homes. The developers will break ground later this year.

## Musical Mission Tour performs at UNC



UNC had the pleasure of hosting the Musical Mission Tour group from Clay Church in South Bend, Indiana on June 18. The students volunteered at each of our three childcare centers in the morning before congregating at the Bellevue Center in order to put on a production of Seussical Jr. in the afternoon. The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance, and we so appreciate the effort the group made in visiting our childcare centers.