



**UNITED  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
CENTERS**  
of Northeastern Pennsylvania

# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends,

Over the course of the past year, United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania experienced a mixture of meaningful accomplishments, exciting growth, and occasional challenges.

The announcement of the closing of Camp St. Andrew, where UNC's Project Hope summer camp hosted low-income, at-risk children every summer, presented a new hurdle for the program. We are still in the process of determining what camp will look like in 2016, but please know that the agency remains committed to continuing to provide quality summer programming for local children in need.

Elsewhere in the agency, new initiatives have grown exponentially, increasing the agency's capacity to take a holistic approach to addressing the needs of local residents. The Community Health Department is in its second year of operations and already demonstrating an ability to generate substantial health care cost-savings for the community, as well as increased quality of life for participants. Additionally, the new Oppenheim Center for the Arts opened in June and is now serving as an important community focal point, bringing together youth and older adults for a wide variety of arts programming.

These accomplishments, and the other highlights and new initiatives that you will read about throughout this report, are truly a testament to the ongoing commitment from UNC's many supporters. We are proud to share with you the many ways that your help continues to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors.

Dr. Paul Kaczmarcik  
Board President

*"I like to shoot arrows in archery, catch critters at the creek, and learn cool stuff in the nature cabin. Camp is swimming, basketball, and sunglasses."*

*Allen  
Project Hope Camper*



# ABOUT UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS

## MISSION & APPROACH

Our mission is to work together with neighbors to provide services and create opportunities which empower individuals and build strong interdependent communities. The agency accomplishes this mission through six programmatic departments (Community Services, Child Care, Youth Programs, Older Adult Programs, Adult Literacy, and Community Health) and a Housing/Community Development Corporation. Through this diverse programming, UNC uses an innovative wrap-around approach to address the emerging needs of the community it serves.

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**Increased primary  
care provider usage  
among Community  
Health Department  
consumers by 32%**

# HIGHLIGHTS & NEW INITIATIVES

*"Doing pottery with the older seniors was a fun time. We helped each other with our trivets and talked about our families."*

**TaraLee**  
Youth Arts Participant



## OPPENHEIM CENTER FOR THE ARTS OPENS

UNC held the official grand opening of the Oppenheim Center for the Arts in June, and since that time, the newly renovated building has become a bustling hub of activity for both older adults and youth.

With the first floor featuring an open common area and the brand new Burns Auditorium, the West Side Active Adult Community Center operates in the space on weekdays, while artistic performances take place in the evenings and on weekends. The upper floors now also include meeting space for youth in the afterschool programs, as well as a variety of studio spaces tailored for each of UNC's art programs, including pottery, dance, music recording, photography, and painting.

Most importantly, the new building has served as a launch pad for UNC's efforts to introduce intergenerational arts programming. Painting, pottery, and dance classes that welcome teens and seniors have been introduced with great success. These opportunities are creating positive relationships between the two generations, increasing socialization for the seniors, and offering mentorship to the teens. Additional intergenerational programs are planned for next year as momentum builds.



**Addressed 1,994 health alerts identified through TIPS monitoring**

*"It makes me comfortable to know someone is looking over my stats. It's convenient and if there's something wrong, they call you."*

**Theresa Scott**  
TIPS Participant

## COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT FACES INCREASED DEMAND

The number of individuals utilizing UNC's Community Services Department continued to increase this year as many local residents sought assistance to meet their basic needs, as well as obtain services to help achieve long-term stability.

During the several week long Scranton School District Teacher's Strike, numerous new families sought help from UNC's Angel's Attic food bank to provide meals for their children. More than 80 percent of the district's 10,000 students qualify for free or reduced-price breakfast or lunches, so with classes canceled, UNC's food bank helped fill in the gaps for these families.

Additionally, during 2015, UNC experienced an increase in the number of working families who were struggling to provide food, clothing, and other necessities for their families. To better serve these clients, the hours of operation for the Community Services building were extended by two hours on Thursdays, starting in November. These time slots have quickly filled up with new clients in need of assistance. UNC continues to seek new sources of community support to meet the increased demand for these types of services so that no one has to be turned away.

*"UNC's food pantry has been a huge help to making ends meet for my family."*

**Jan**  
UNC Client

## HEALTHY AGING FOCUS OF NEW PROGRAM

This year, UNC launched an exciting new program that uses technology and assistance from local students to help seniors age successfully and be proactive about their health.

The Telehealth Intervention Programs for Seniors (TIPS), offered in partnership with The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties, University of Scranton, and the Jewish Community Center of Scranton, was launched at UNC's four Active Adult Community Centers. Four days per week, trained students from the University of Scranton visit the Centers to take the seniors' vital signs – specifically their pulse, weight, oxygen blood level, and blood pressure. These readings are measured using Bluetooth-enabled equipment that transmits the data to licensed Registered Nurses in UNC's Community Health Department. The nurses review the data, and if the readings show cause for immediate concern, they contact the senior and/or their caregiver or primary care physician for follow-up and recommendations.

The personal, one-on-one connections formed between the seniors, students, and nurses have made the program a success. Presently, 179 seniors are taking advantage of TIPS, and many significant findings have already been identified and addressed. Additionally, the program has led to stronger partnerships with local physicians and the University of Scranton. Plans for additional collaborative opportunities, as well as sustained funding for the program, are currently being explored.

# HIGHLIGHTS & NEW INITIATIVES



*"We enjoy going to the South Side Farmers Market because not only does it help make our business economically viable, it allows the consumer to get the freshest food around."*

*Elizabeth Krug  
Fullers Overlook Farm*

## SOUTH SIDE REVITALIZATION CONTINUES

Throughout 2015, UNC continued to build on successful revitalization efforts in the South Side neighborhood of Scranton.

Local businesses were supported with the expansion of the South Side Farmers Market to include an indoor winter market that offers residents access to fresh, local food year-round. South Side's first Small Business Saturday event was held, encouraging people to shop locally during the holiday season, further supporting the area's small business owners. Additionally, UNC's façade improvement grant program, which provides matching funds for businesses and homeowners to enhance the exterior of their buildings, continued. A total of five façade grants were awarded this year and will soon increase the visual appearance of the neighborhood.

Looking forward, UNC has secured a renewal grant from the Wells Fargo Regional Foundation to support continued improvements to the appearance of the streetscape, business recruitment, and community engagement efforts in South Side. The agency is also working closely with the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority and other community partners to integrate its South Side revitalization efforts into a broader strategic plan to transform the area around the Iron Furnaces into a variety of community and artistic spaces known as the Iron Arts District.



*"Before UNC, I did not have confidence to talk with people around me. But now I understand what they say, I feel confident talking with everyone."*

*Ayoub Ali Ahmed  
ESL Student*

**Provided more than 5,800 hours of classroom and one-on-one tutoring to adult ESL and literacy students**

## CHILD CARE CENTERS OFFER NEW EDUCATION PROGRAM

In January, UNC entered into a new partnership with the Lacawac Sanctuary and Field Station to bring environmental science education to students in the agency's three child care centers.

The Y.E.S. (Youth and Environmental Science) Program offers bi-weekly lessons to school-age children that engage them in learning about Pennsylvania's flora, fauna, and climate. The lessons align with state academic standards for environment and ecology, and use games and other interactive techniques to get the students excited to learn. Lacawac's educators also foster a multidisciplinary experience by using art, math, engineering, and chemistry to explore each lesson's concepts.

Approximately 250 children are currently participating in the program, which will continue throughout the rest of the school year.

*"Lacawac classes are fun because we get to play and learn about animals."*

*Robert  
Child Care Student*

## ESL PROGRAM CONNECTS NEW RESIDENTS TO COMMUNITY

A new initiative introduced this year through UNC's English as a Second Language (ESL) programming seeks to connect the agency's classroom efforts with broader community goals.

The City of Scranton's seven-decade population decline has now halted, thanks to an increase in foreign-born residents. These new residents have brought a variety of unique skills, knowledge, and experiences that can greatly enhance the region's civic life. UNC is committed to helping these families integrate into our schools, businesses, and other organizations so that they may share these talents with the community. With that goal in mind, this year UNC teachers accompanied ESL families to several special events in Scranton, including a children's block party, a "Cooking Matters" program at Gerrity's grocery store, and a cultural event at the Iron Furnaces. Flyers for other community events were also incorporated into ESL classes to encourage students to take part in regional programs while building their language skills.

Many of Scranton's new foreign-born residents have faced extreme hardships as refugees or asylum-seekers. As UNC's ESL teachers can attest, these new neighbors can inspire and humble with their optimism in the face of adversity. Through this new initiative, and others like the Ethnic Carol Sing, International Dinner, and Language Partnership Program, UNC hopes to continue to build cultural competency across our community.

# HIGHLIGHTS & NEW INITIATIVES



**Hosted 373  
at-risk children  
at Project Hope  
summer camp**

## PROJECT HOPE UPDATE

With the Diocese of Scranton's announcement in 2015 that Camp St. Andrew will be closing, UNC has started exploring future options for the agency's Project Hope summer camp, which was previously hosted at the site for more than 40 years.

Discussions with the Diocese about long-term plans are still in progress, but at least for 2016 Project Hope will be able to continue at the location. More information will be shared as soon as more solid plans are in place.

Regardless, UNC remains committed to continuing to provide quality summer programming for low income and at-risk Lackawanna County children. The agency firmly believes in the power of such programs to positively influence the lives of participants.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT EXPANDS DURING SECOND YEAR

The second year of operations for UNC's Community Health Department was marked by significant growth and encouraging success stories.

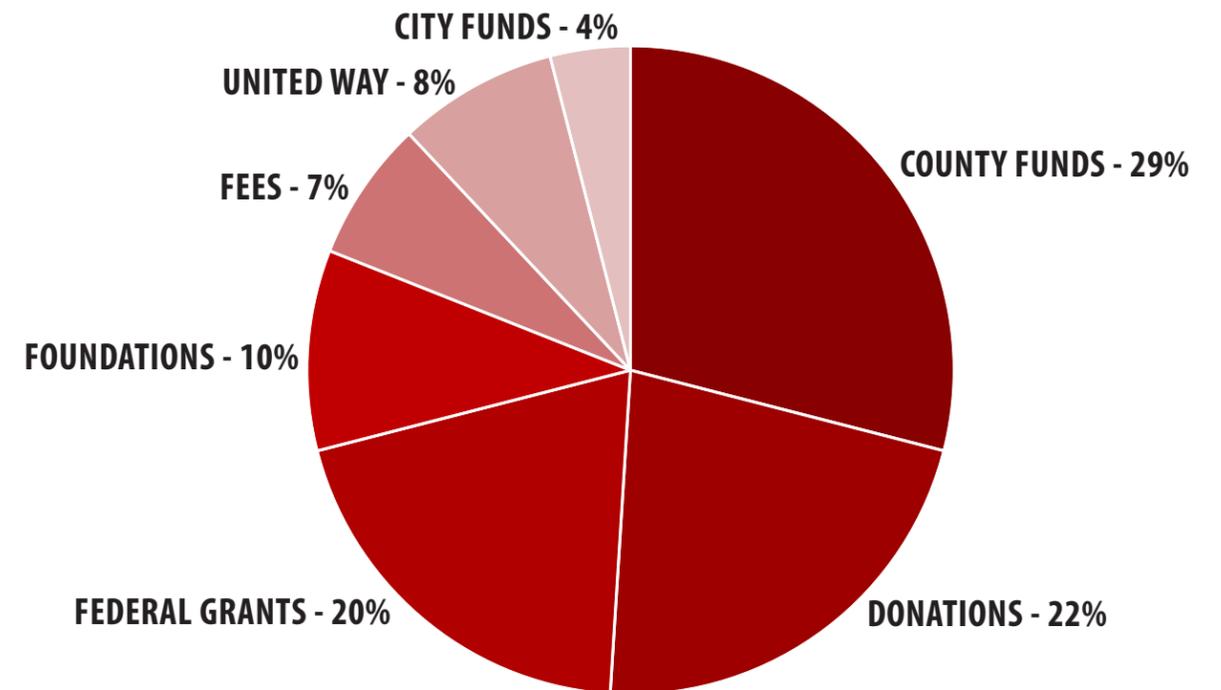
Due to a rapid influx of participants, the size of the department's staff tripled in 2015 to ensure that quality services could be provided to all those enrolled. Three registered nurses, a licensed social worker, and 5 peer health educators now work under the guidance of the Department Director to bridge the gap between the medical community and the at-risk individuals UNC has served for decades.

As the department has grown, its impact on the community has started to become apparent. In just one year, there has been a 24.56% decrease in emergency room utilization among consumers enrolled in the department. Furthermore, numerous individual stories of success have come to the forefront. One individual who was using the ER for dialysis, lacked health insurance, a primary care provider, eye glasses, and stable housing now is set up to receive regular dialysis services and transportation to appointments. UNC's Community Services department was able to place the individual in stable housing, and the Community Health Department connected him with a primary care provider, provided education on how to manage his disease, and obtained free eyeglasses for him. Now, the individual feels comfortable setting up his own medical appointments, but still regularly checks in with UNC staff to provide updates on his health.

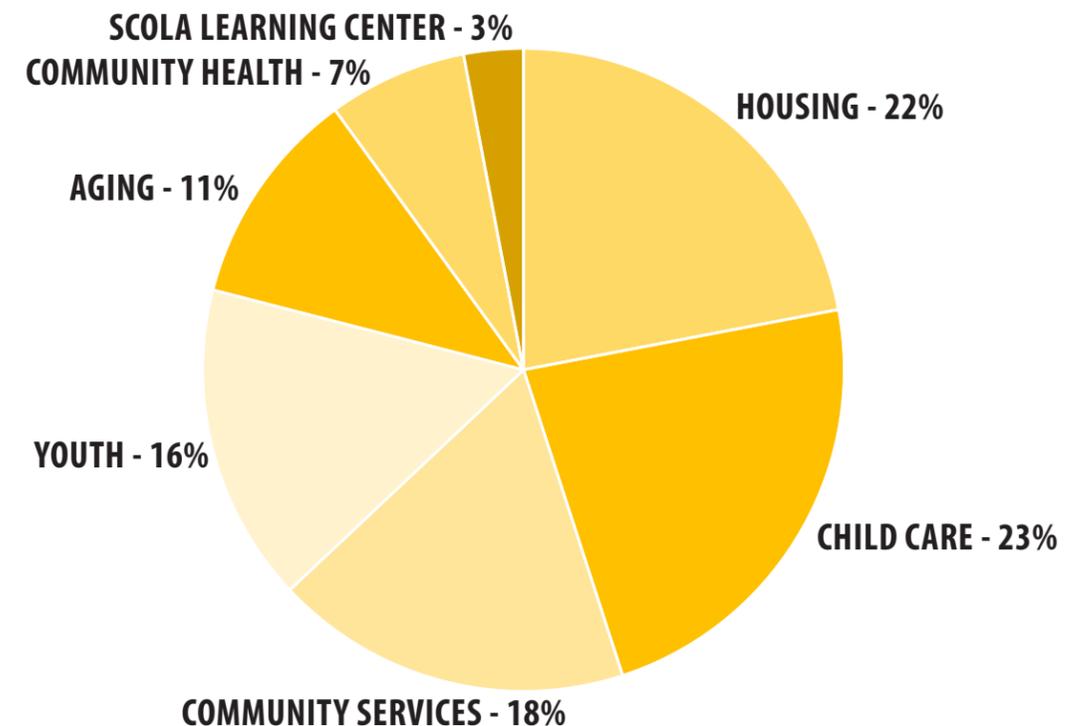
Looking forward to next year, UNC plans to contract with The Institute of Public Health Research and Innovation at East Stroudsburg University to commence a feasibility study and complete evaluation of the Community Health Department, including its model, services, and outcomes. The evaluation is expected to take between 3-6 months, and will help ensure the department is as effective and sustainable as possible.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## REVENUE - TOTAL \$5,654,185



## EXPENSES - TOTAL \$5,265,083



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*\*Donations are listed as of December 15, 2015 and are cumulative for the year.*

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Ms. JoAnn Wolski  
Ms. Alison Woody  
Mr. and Mrs. William Wormuth  
Ms. Grace Zanghi

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Mrs. Sally Albrecht  
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Mr. Nelson and  
Mrs. Shannon Ancherani  
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Mr. Eugene and Mrs. Ann Arcurie  
Mr. J. Lincoln and  
Mrs. Karen Arthur  
Mr. Michael and  
Mrs. Donna Arthur  
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Mrs. Frances Banick  
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Mr. Angelo and  
Mrs. Margaret Benitez  
Mr. Joseph and  
Mrs. Cesira Berardelli  
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Mrs. Patricia Davitt  
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Joan Donovan, Ph.D.  
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Mrs. Anne Dougherty  
Mr. Cyril and Mrs. Lois K. Draina  
Mr. Walter Durkin

# 2015 ANNUAL GIVING

## FOUNDATIONS

Anonymous  
The Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
Darden Foundation  
Dollar General Literacy Foundation  
Elder Share the Arts, Inc.  
ESSA Bank & Trust Foundation  
The Frieder Foundation  
Gathering Tree Foundation  
The Frederick & Colette B. Heldring Charitable Fund  
Irving & Edythe Grossman Foundation  
Margaret Briggs Foundation  
Milrice Foundation  
The Robert Y. Moffat Family Charitable Trust  
Northeastern Pennsylvania Healthcare Foundation  
The Oppenheim Family Foundation

## GOVERNMENT

Lackawanna County Arts & Culture Department  
Lackawanna County Commissioners  
Lackawanna County Department of Human Services  
Area Agency on Aging  
Office of Behavioral Health/Intellectual Disability/  
Early Intervention  
Office of Youth & Family Services  
Special Services  
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency  
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts  
Pennsylvania Department of Aging

## ORGANIZATIONS

Abington Area Community Classroom  
Abington Heights Civic League, Inc.  
Anthracite Heritage Museum and Iron Furnaces Associates  
Black Sheep of West Scranton  
The Church of the Epiphany - Christian Outreach Committee  
Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Delaware Tower Tenants Association  
Diocese of Scranton  
First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit  
Friends of Senator John Blake  
Hill Neighborhood Association, Inc.  
Holy Cross High School  
Holy Cross High School Student Council  
Jackson Street Baptist Church-LOA Class  
Jewish Federation of NEPA  
Johnson College  
Junior League of Scranton

Overlook Estate Foundation  
People's Security Charitable Foundation  
PepsiCo Foundation Fund  
PNC Foundation  
PPL Foundation  
Roselle B. Fine Charitable Lead Trust  
Scranton Area Community Foundation  
Scranton Kiwanis Foundation  
Share Our Strength  
TJX Foundation  
The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Wells Fargo Regional Foundation  
Women's Sports Foundation

Pennsylvania Department of Community &  
Economic Development  
Pennsylvania Department of Education  
Pennsylvania Department of Health  
Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare  
Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency  
Scranton Office of Economic and Community Development  
United States Department of Education  
United States Department of Housing and  
Urban Development

Keystone Chapter UNICO National  
Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority  
Rotary Club of Scranton  
Saint Gregory Church  
Saint Mary's Rosary Society  
Scranton Prep Senior Summer Service Activity  
The Scranton School District  
The Scranton Social Sports Club  
Spring Hills Farm  
Temple Hessed  
The Commonwealth Medical College  
United Way of Lackawanna & Wayne Counties  
University of Scranton  
University of Scranton Exercise Science Club  
Waverly Women's Club  
The Wright Center for Primary Care

## BUSINESSES AND CORPORATIONS

AAA North Penn  
Ackourey and Turel, PC  
AJS Mechanical Services, LLC  
Allied Services  
AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania  
Arthur A. Albin Funeral Home  
AVIVA Strings  
Babby Cakes Bakery  
Bank of America  
Bank of America Matching Gifts  
Barbetti Accounting  
Barbour's Bakery  
BlackOut Design  
Boscov's Department Store, LLC  
Canadian Pacific Railway Company  
Carl Von Luger Steak and Seafood  
Carmen's 2.0 Restaurant  
Center City Print  
Chocolate Creations  
Christa Lynn's Designer Confections  
Boutique  
Citizens Savings Bank  
Colbert & Grebas, P.C.  
Colt's Transportation  
Community Bank, NA  
Condron & Cosgrove.  
Construction Risk Partners, LLC  
Donahue Funeral Home  
DxDempsey, Inc.  
Edible Arrangements  
Enhanced Hearing Specialists, LLC  
Entercom Communications  
Corporation  
Excalibur Insurance Management  
Services, LLC  
Fidelity Deposit & Discount Bank  
Fine Desserts  
Fire and Ice Florist  
First National Community Bank  
Flowserve Pump Company  
Gap, Inc.  
Geisinger Health System  
Gem 104  
Gerrity's Supermarket  
Gertrude Hawk Chocolates  
Giant/Martin's  
The Golden Karat Jewelry Store  
Graham Public Relations and  
Advertising  
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Harvest Catering  
John R. Hennemuth & Associates

The Hotel Hershey  
Houghton Chemical Corporation  
HPC Enterprises  
Iron Pierce Catering  
Jack Williams Tire Company, Inc.  
Jo Jo the Clown  
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Keen Lake Camping and  
Cottage Resort  
Knowles Associates  
Lackawanna Casualty Co.  
Lamar Advertising  
The Law Firm of Cagnetti and Cimini  
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Peculiar Culinary Company  
Peoples Security Bank

Pittston Popcorn Co. LLC  
PNC Financial Services Group  
PPL Services Corporation  
Professional Orthopedic  
Associates, Ltd.  
Quadrant EPP USA, Inc.  
Rabel Furniture Co.  
Racquetees Fitness and Health Inc.  
Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel  
Riccardo's Market, Inc.  
Rock 107  
Sanofi Pasteur, Inc.  
The Scranton Cultural Center  
The Scranton Times  
Skytop Lodge  
Sprint Print  
Stirna's Restaurant  
Sunrise Select Properties LLC  
TMG Health, Inc.  
Tom Grudis Optical Center  
TracyCakes  
TRIGUARD, INC.  
Toyota of Scranton  
Valor Credit Union  
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Weiss Markets  
Willis North America Inc.  
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WNEP-TV  
Woodloch Pines Resort



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United Way of  
Lackawanna and Wayne Counties

Member Agency



## 2016 SPECIAL EVENTS

**Party Gras - February 5**

*Crisis Intervention Services*

**Seniors Got Talent - May 15**

*Active Older Adult Programs*

**Kicks for Kids - June 4**

*Project Hope*

**Farm to Fork - August 6**

*Community Health Department*

**Chocoholic Frolic - October 16**

*Adult Literacy/ESL Services*



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CENTERS**

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