



Community Partnerships

The Newsletter of the Local Management Board of Allegany County, Inc.

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Working together to improve the well-being of children and families

Local Educator Recognized

Sheree Witt was recently honored as Special Education Director of the Year. She was given this honor by the Maryland State Department of Education personnel, after being nominated by her peers. Sheree is the first person to receive this honor.

Sheree is employed by the Allegany County Board of Education, where she serves as Executive Director of Special Education and Pupil Services. She is also an active member of the LMB.

Westmar High After School Program

Nancy Evans, Program Director for Westmar After School Program and 11 faithful teachers; Bonnie Miller, Sharon Malec, Ross Metts, John Byzon, Florence Saku, Nathan Chesky, Carmel Goodwin, Rebecca Byzon, Carol Meese, Tricia Schaidt, Tom Brackett offer activities 3 days a week for the students.

During the 2006-2007 school year students enjoy participating in various recreational opportunities. Field trips have included bowling, attending a movie at the Country Club Mall Theater and an upcoming skiing/tubing trip to the WISP in February.

On a regular basis students can take part in computer activities, exercising and weightlifting, X-Box and Play Station games, sewing, arts and crafts, woodworking, karaoke, basketball and football.

This year, group and individual tutoring has been offered to interested students who have obtained a teacher referral. The program focuses on improving student grades, attendance and behavior.

In addition, students are provided with information about drug and alcohol prevention, strengthening their ability to make healthy choices. Plans are being made to re-introduce the Project 7 Program to the George's Creek Community and to the students at Westmar High School in the spring. The Seven Project is a multimedia, speaker-driven school assembly that addresses real-life issues and situations students face every day.

Students really enjoy the after school time to meet with their friends, learn new skills, and interact with their teachers.

There are 92 students enrolled in the program with an average of 30-40 students a night. Family Nights are offered once a month to increase parent involvement.

SAVE THESE DATES:

February 24th: 4th Annual Community Health Fair

Carver Community Center, Inc. 340 Frederick St. Cumberland, MD 21502

Over 25 exhibitors, tour the Governor's Wellmobile, free blood pressure screenings, giveaways, and entertainment 11:00am-2:00pm
Please direct questions to 301-777-7350 or 301-759-5121

April 20th: "TODAY'S THE DAY" to talk to kids about drugs and recognize the effects of drug use on newborns and children.

Volunteer based event to take place at major intersections throughout Allegany County 7:00am-9:00am

April 27th: Celebrating Allegany County's Young People

Friday After 4

Children's event to be held on the Downtown Cumberland Mall from 4:00pm-7:00pm

YMCA FAMILY CENTER:

OFFERING GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING TEEN MOTHERS...

Weekly visits occur both in home and in school settings with pregnant and parenting teen girls. Participants are encouraged to discuss parenting and pregnancy issues in an informal group setting. Through peer support and staff guidance, participants are given the necessary tools to become effective and nurturing parents.

Topics focus on early literacy, nurturing parents, benefits of breastfeeding, SIDS prevention, healthy eating, shaken baby syndrome and the importance of education. Participants are encouraged to create long-term goals and explore

self-esteem issues to aid in preventing subsequent pregnancies.

Since July 2006, thirty-four girls have participated in the program. Out of 13 babies born this year, 11 have been full-term and weighed over 5.5lbs. Last year, ten students graduated from high school. Eleven students anticipate graduating this year.

We are looking forward to our Father's program starting again this quarter where similar services will be offered to fathers.

Angela Morton, Teen Parent Coordinator, and the staff at the YMCA family center have been successfully implementing this program for over five years.

Remember, February is National Heart Health Month.

Heart disease is still the leading cause of death in the United States. Make it a priority to learn more about heart disease and ways to prevent it. In addition to making healthy eating choices, fitness is a great preventative measure. According to the American Heart Association "walking is the easiest way to fight heart disease and stroke." Be smart when it comes to your heart.

Local Management Board of Allegany County, Inc.

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If you would like to receive this newsletter, please send an E-Mail to jward@allconet.org and include "Add to Newsletter" in the subject line.

Information about programs or upcoming events may be submitted using the contact information below.

Community Partnerships
Local Management Board of Allegany County
PO BOX 2235
128 Virginia Avenue
Cumberland, MD 21503

Tel: (301) 777-2008
Fax: (301) 777-2093
E-mail: jward@allconet.org

www.lmb.allconet.org