

E-UPDATE

PRIMARILY FREE EVENTS AND TRAININGS IMPACTING AREA INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

Updated: May 13, 2012

*Helping to Bridge the Gap Between the Wealth of Available Resources
and the Poverty Associated With People Not Knowing About Them*

**THIS E-UPDATE AND ACCOMPANYING CALENDAR OF EVENTS
AND E-UPDATE RESOURCES™
ALSO ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE THROUGH
www.arcofchestercounty.org/arconnections.html (bottom links)**

*Activities are subject to change without notice; participants are encouraged
to use contact information to confirm times and dates.*

*To unsubscribe, please send a message to bps461@msn.com
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Sections Available in the attached *Calendar of Events*:

- **UPDATED THIS WEEK - Special Activities:** Upcoming primarily free activities listed by day over the next several months.
- **UPDATED THIS WEEK – Ongoing Scheduled Activities:** Primarily free activities held regularly each week or month.
- **Area Ministries for Those Who are Struggling.** GriefShare, DivorceCare, Celebrate Recovery, Mending Hearts.
- **Day Trip Destination Sites:** Free admission sites for individual and family outings.
- **Information About Services, Including Employment Resources, for Individuals and Families. Found in Accompanying *E-Update Resources™* Publication.**

UPDATED THIS WEEK: *Calendar of Events* - Please Submit Additions Today

Upcoming Activities – The following items, in addition to those described within this *E-Update*, are newly listed or will be occurring during the current two-week period. Details are provided in the accompanying, downloadable *Calendar of Events*. These are designed for both personal use and printing out and sharing with others through suggested posting on public and employee bulletin boards, hard copies or e-mail.

Updated: *This Week's Calendar of Events Activities* (*View in Calendar of Events*)

- *Science in the Summer Kids Series* – Public Libraries Throughout Area.
- *Arts in Recovery Exhibit* - Phoenixville.
- *Access the World Photography Exhibit* – Malvern.
- *Wharton Esherick Wood Exhibit* – Malvern.
- *Parents as Partners in Professional Development Workshop* – Harrisburg.

- *Stages of Dementia* Presentation – New Holland.
- Dogwood Parade and Festival – Phoenixville.
- Spring-Ford Student Film Festival – Phoenixville.
- *Teen Orphans* Presentation – Parkesburg.
- *The New Face of Farming* Film and Presentation – Exton.
- Aevium Youth Depression-Suicide Awareness – Blue Bell.
- *Deaf-Blindness Support* Workshop – Harrisburg.
- *Medicare 101* Workshop – Phoenixville.
- *Health and Stress* Presentation – Exton.
- *Resources for Children with ADHD* Presentation – West Chester.
- *Job Searching & Networking Online* Workshop – Exton.
- TriCounty Career Fair – Pottstown.
- *Steps to a Healthier Body for Caregivers* Workshop – Lancaster.
- *Reframing Your Child's Behavior* Series – West Chester.
- *Home Purchase Process: Financing* Workshop – Exton.
- *Apraxia 101* Presentation – Malvern.
- *Deaf-Blindness Support* Workshop – Harrisburg.
- *Town Hall Meeting* on Drugs and Alcohol – West Chester.
- *Wrap-Around Services* Workshop – West Chester.
- *German Storytime* for Children – Paoli.
- Car Seat Safety Check – Pottstown.
- May Festival – West Chester.
- Father-Daughter Dance – Parkesburg.
- Paper Shredding Event – Wayne.
- *Community Day* for Families with Special Needs – Malvern.
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection – Pottstown.
- *Who Said "It's a Man's World"* Workshop – Pottstown.
- Congressional Job Fair – Media.
- Arts & Environmental Festival – Berwyn.
- Healthy Living Fair – Oxford.
- Towamencin Day – Lansdale.
- Iris Flower Show – Devon.
- *Celebration of Hope* for Mental Illness – Downingtown.
- Valley Forge Handbell Festival – Wayne.

Updated: Next Week's Calendar of Events Activities (View in Calendar of Events)

- *Science in the Summer* Kids Series – Public Libraries Throughout Area.
- *Arts in Recovery* Exhibit - Phoenixville.
- *Access the World* Photography Exhibit – Malvern.
- Wharton Esherick Wood Exhibit – Malvern.
- Barn Art Exhibit – Pottstown.
- *Veterans Heroes Day* – Phoenixville.
- *Library Community Day* – Exton.
- Coventry Woods Festival – Pottstown.
- Indian Run Trail Hike – Glenmoore.
- *Life in Rural Pennsylvania During the Federal Period* Presentation – Berwyn.
- String Concert – Strafford.
- Choir Concert – Kennett Square.
- The Christian Artists Singers Concert – Phoenixville.
- Senior Health & Fitness Week – Pottstown.
- Lyme Disease and Deer Forum – West Chester.
- Community Meal – West Grove.
- Job Search Workshop – Coatesville.

- Pardons and Expungements Workshop – Coatesville.
- *How B Corporations are Defining Success* Presentation – Berwyn.
- *Children's Learning* Workshop for Parents – Downingtown.
- *Women and Money* Workshop – Exton.
- *Medicare 101* Workshop – Kennett Square.
- *Frugal Living* Presentation – Chester Springs (Ludwigs Corner).
- Senior Health Fair – Parkesburg.
- *Grow Your Own Herbs* Presentation – Malvern.
- Pastors Appreciation Breakfast – Philadelphia.
- Oboe and English Horn Concert – Honey Brook.
- *In Search of the Native American Moon* Presentation – Glenmoore.
- *Children's Food Bonanza* – Paoli.

New: Future Weeks Events and Activities (View in Calendar of Events)

- *Cooking with Novelist Elisa Ludwig* – Strafford.
- Senior Health and Fitness Day – Phoenixville and Limerick.
- Electronics Recycling Day – Exton.
- Italian American Heritage Festival – Media.
- Orchestra Concert – Bryn Mawr.
- Community Family Celebration – Kennett Square.
- German Storytime – Paoli.
- Manayunk Art Festival – Manayunk.
- Youth Bounce Back Talent Show – Kennett Square.

Activities Submission - Organizations are encouraged to submit information about ongoing services and activities, along with special events, as soon as possible after establishing a date to maximize publicity and to help individuals and other organizations with planning processes for their own events.

Formats for submission should be similar to and include all information as that shown on the current, accompanying *Calendar of Events*. Further information about submissions appears at the end of this *E-Update* and the *Calendar*. Information should be submitted to bps461@msn.com. Don't let your important activity be an unknown.

UPDATED THIS WEEK: Observances Slated for May

National Health Information Center and others post information in regard to annual health, and other observances.

April awareness observances, with links to information websites, include:

- **Arthritis Awareness Month:** www.arthritis.org/arthritis-month-2009.php
Let's Move Together! is the theme for this year's observance, lead by the Arthritis Foundation, with activity said to be a key factor in mitigating of pain from arthritis that affects one in five Americans.
- **Better Hearing and Speech Month:** www.asha.org/bhsm
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association provides opportunities to raise awareness about communication disorders and to promote treatment that can improve the quality of life for those experiencing problems with speaking, understanding, or hearing.
- **Global Employee Health and Fitness Month:** www.healthandfitnessmonth.com
National Association for Health & Fitness and ACTIVE Life collaborate to promote

benefits of a healthy lifestyle to employers and their employees through worksite health promotion activities and environments

- **Healthy Vision Month:** www.nei.nih.gov/healthyvisionmonth
With millions of persons said to be living in the United States with undetected vision problems, eye diseases, and conditions, the observance is designed by the National Institutes of Health to elevate vision as a health priority for the nation by promoting the importance of early detection and treatment, as well as the use of proper eye safety practices, in preventing vision loss and blindness.
- **Hepatitis Awareness Month:** www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HepAwarenessMonth.htm
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises that Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C can become chronic, life-long infections which can lead to liver cancer, with millions of Americans living with chronic viral hepatitis and many not knowing they are infected. The Division of Viral Hepatitis is developing an online risk assessment that will be launched on May 7.
- **Lupus Awareness Month:**
www.lupus.org/webmodules/webarticlesnet/templates/new_empty.aspx?articleid=4473&zoneid=76
CDC notes that Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, or SLE or lupus, is an autoimmune disease in which the immune system produces antibodies to cells within the body leading to widespread inflammation and tissue damage. Causes of SLE, an unpredictable and sometimes fatal disease affecting an estimated 1.5 million Americans, are unknown but are believed to be linked to genetic, environmental and hormonal factors.
- **Mental Health Month:** www.mentalhealthamerica.net/go/may
Do More for 1 in 4 and *Healing Trauma's Invisible Wounds* are the two themes of this year's Mental Health America, formerly known as the National Mental Health Association, awareness campaign to help the one in four American adults the organization says lives with a "diagnosable, treatable mental health condition and the fact they can go on to live full and productive lives", and the impact of traumatic events on individuals and communities.
- **National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month:**
www.aafa.org/display.cfm?id=10&sub=99&cont=457
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of American recognizes this peak season for asthma and allergy sufferers as being a time to educate patients, family, friends, co-workers and others about these diseases.
- **Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month:** www.asianpacificheritage.gov
Government historical organizations and museums recognize the generations of Asian and Pacific Islanders who have enriched America's history and are instrumental in its future success.
- **National Foster Care Month:** www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth
This year's focus, *Achieving Well-Being With Children and Youth in Care*, provides resources to support child welfare professionals as they seek to build well-being with transitioning youth; postpermanency; support in sibling connections, schools and communities; and through trauma-informed child welfare systems for the 400,000 children and youth in foster care.
- **National Physical Fitness and Sports Month:** www.fitness.gov/npfsm
Observance helps to promote awareness of the value of physical activity in the pursuit of a happier, healthier, and more productive nation.
- **Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month:** www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/Motorcycles
A national initiative directed at getting motorists and motorcyclists to "share the road" with each other.
- **Lyme Disease Awareness Month:**
www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2011/s0520_lymedisease.html

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notes nearly 30,000 confirmed cases of Lyme disease in 2009 and seeks to build awareness of the common tickborne disease and how to take steps to protect oneself if living or visiting areas with Lyme disease activity.

- **National Celiac Disease Awareness Month:** www.americanceliac.org
American Celiac Disease Alliance (ACDA) develops awareness of the disease and urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to require gluten-free labeling on foods regulated by the agency.
- **National High Blood Pressure Education Month and Stroke Awareness Month:**
www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/05/20120502a.html
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services notes that when one controls blood pressure, he or she reduces the risk of stroke -- the fourth leading cause of death in the United States with one in three adults having high blood pressure or hypertension.
- **National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month:** www.nof.org
National Osteoporosis Foundation suggests a patient-doctor discussion about a bone density test for individuals 50 years and older with a broken bone, even from an accident, due to "porous bones" resulting in weakness.
- **Air Quality Awareness Week** (April 30-May 4): www.epa.gov/airnow/airaware
This year's theme of Healthy Air. Healthy You. is designed to bring awareness of how air quality affects one's health.
- **National Nurses Week** (May 6-12): <http://nursingworld.org/NationalNursesWeek>
Annual recognition of nurses and the nursing profession from May 6, also known as National Nurses Day, through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.
- **Children's Mental Health Awareness Week** (May 6-12):
<http://ffcmh.org/2012/01/national-children%E2%80%99s-mental-health-awareness-week>
Designation is designed to increase public awareness of need for family and youth involvement in children's mental health efforts.
- **National Stuttering Awareness Week** (May 7-13): www.stutteringhelp.org
Observance is to create awareness of the communication disorder that, according to the National Stuttering Foundation, affects one percent of the population and approximately four times more males than females, along with early intervention.
- **National Women's Health Week** (May 13-19): www.womenshealth.gov/whw
Recognition is designed to encourage women to take steps to improve their physical and mental health and lower risks of certain diseases.
- **National Neuropathy Awareness Week** (May 14-18):
www.neuropathy.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Neuropathy_Week
Observance draws awareness to peripheral neuropathy, a disorder of the peripheral nerves—the motor, sensory and autonomic nerves that connect the spinal cord to muscles, skin and internal organs – that usually affects the hands and feet, causing weakness, numbness, tingling and pain. Approximately one in 15 Americans, particularly those who are older, are afflicted by the condition, many of them not knowing it.
- **National Hurricane Preparedness Week** (May 27-June 2):
www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare
Observance to educate as to actions that should be taken to avoid hurricane disasters.
- **Military Spouse Appreciation Day** (May 11):
<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/pls/psqprod/f?p=MHF:HOME1:0:::::SID:20.40.0.0.0.0.0.0>

Designation to honor the 1.2 million men and women spouses who serve alongside members of the military.

Health observances for the year are available at <http://healthfinder.gov/nho/nho.asp?year=2012>.

NEW THIS WEEK: Chester County Considered Second Healthiest

Chester County has been rated the second healthiest overall in Pennsylvania in an analysis by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, an increase over its third position last year and below its top rating in 2010.

The county was rated second in mortality and fourth in morbidity. Adjoining counties, in order of overall rankings followed by standings for mortality and morbidity, include Montgomery at 5, 4 and 8; Lancaster at 9, 11 and 6; Berks at 14, 15 and 21, and Delaware at 37, 38 and 35.

State and individual county rankings in specific areas of health and social and economic conditions are available at www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/pennsylvania/2010/rankings/outcomes/overall.

NEW LAST WEEK: Free Science in the Summer Kids Series – June – August; Registration May-June

Public libraries in the Greater Philadelphia area, including Chester, Montgomery and Delaware counties, will participate in the 26th year of GlaxoSmithKline's *Science in the Summer* program for students entering second through sixth grades.

Some 4,700 children will participate in limited availability classes in two age groups from a Monday through Thursday, with Chester County students studying chemistry, Montgomery County children simple machines and Delaware County students physical science and electricity.

Class dates and times, required registration periods, course descriptions and other information are available at www.scienceinthesummer.com/greater_phila/index.html.

NEW THIS WEEK: Free FBI Human Trafficking Training – Wednesday, May 16

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Community Relations Executive Seminar Training (CREST) on human trafficking will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 16 at the Chester County Youth Center, 505 South Wawaset Road, West Chester.

The event will include an examination of the issue, a case presentation, victims rights and community partnerships to mitigate the issue.

Further information and required registration is available from Carrie Avery at cavery@chesco.org or (610) 793-5910 x5014.

UPDATED THIS WEEK: Free Career Fair and Workshops –Wednesday, May 16

An expanded TriCounty Community Career Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 16, at the Berean Conference Center, 2675 East High Street, Pottstown.

Over 70 employers/exhibitors will be on hand to discuss entry level to executive positions. Workshops on *Resume Writing* by Laura Kasper, president of Monarch Staffing, and *Resources for Job-Seekers* by Casey Jones, Transformation Initiative for Building Healthy Communities Through Healthy Families and developer of the *12 Steps Toward Employment™* workshop, have been added to the schedule.

No registration is required for this event, sponsored by the TCN Exelon Nuclear Workforce Development Program.

In a related activity, State Rep. Tom Quigley (146th District, Montgomery County) will speak at a **Tuesday, May 15**, TCN meeting, discussing job creation initiatives, such as Employ PA which is aimed at improving legal, regulatory, and tax areas for large and small companies to help them prosper and move forward, and ultimately create jobs and boost the economy. Registration for the free breakfast event, to be held from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Montgomery County Community College, 101 College Drive, Pottstown, is required with TCN at (610) 705-3301.

Further information on all these activities, including a list of Career Fair employers/exhibitors, is available at www.facebook.com/pages/TriCounty-Community-Career-Fair/144745482254617.

UPDATED LAST WEEK: Free Mental Health Symposium for Emergency Services Personnel - Tuesday, May 15

Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Task Force will host *Visions of Courage - Dealing with the Aftermath of Trauma* seminar from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 15 at the Ace Conference Center, 800 Ridge Pike, Lafayette Hill.

Bobby Smith, Ph.D., director of Peer Support Counseling, Chaplaincy and Critical Incident Stress Management for the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Office of State Police, will discuss how to deal with tragedies of life encountered by emergency services personnel that can take a toll on physical, mental and emotional health, as well as impact relationships and careers.

Registration for the activity, which includes lunch, is available at www.surveymonkey.com/s/2012_Annual_Mental_Health_Symposium, with further information at sburns@separtf.org or (267) 443-2709.

NEW LAST WEEK: Free Workshops to Support Students with Deaf-Blindness – Tuesday and Thursday, May 15 and 17

Two workshops for communication strategies and interventions to support students with deaf-blindness will be presented from 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. May 15 and 17 at Pennsylvania Training & Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN), 6340 Flank Drive – Suite 600, Harrisburg.

The trainings are designed for teachers, paraprofessionals, speech language pathologists and parents, with Act 48 education credits available.

Further information and required registration for the communication strategies workshop are available at www.pattan.net/category/Training/Calendar/event/event.html?id=249b1f4a-25ac-4116-985d-b3bed50114fb, knikolic@pattan.net or (800) 360-7282 x3115.

Further information and required registration for the interventions workshop are available at www.pattan.net/category/Training/Calendar/event/event.html?id=0769cbe9-00ba-443a-834b-1551260d9e0f, knikolic@pattan.net or (800) 360-7282 x3115.

NEW LAST WEEK: Free Child Serving Systems Training – Wednesday, May 16; Register by Friday, May 11

An *Accessing the Child Serving Systems in Chester County* workshop will be held from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, May 16, in Room 171 of the Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester.

The training is designed to acquaint county department staff, social services agencies and members of the public with criteria to access services of Children, Youth and Families, Mental Health/Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, including Early Intervention, Juvenile Probation, Drug and Alcohol, Education, Health Department, Department of Community Development, and the Chester County Youth Center.

Further information and required registration is available with Lisa Richardson at lrichardson@chesco.org or (610) 344-6265.

~~**NEW LAST WEEK: Free Housing Forum – Friday, May 18 (CANCELED)**~~

~~Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) South-Eastern Forum will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 18 at the Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester.~~

NEW LAST WEEK: Free Image Makeover for Women – Monday, May 21

Wings for Success and Pulse Beauty Academy will offer a professional image makeover workshop for up to 20 women from 9:30 a.m. to noon May 21 at the Academy at 150 East Pennsylvania Avenue for clients of referral agencies only, with an outfit appointment prior to the event.

Agencies working with women who are unemployed or with other needs may contact Wings for Success at (610) 873-8600 to obtain referral status. Further information about the Malvern organization, which provides women's outfits throughout the year, is available at www.wingsforsuccess.org.

NEW THIS WEEK: Free Lyme Disease and Deer Forum – Tuesday, May 22

Pennsylvania Lyme Disease Awareness Committee will host a Lyme Disease and Deer Forum from 10 a.m. to noon on May 22 in Room 171, Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester.

Experts will discuss what can be done to reduce the tick population and help prevent Lyme disease in Chester County in which there were 690 provisionally confirmed cases in 2011. During the prior year, Pennsylvania reported a total of 3,320 confirmed cases of Lyme disease.

Further information about the Forum is available at www.chesco.org/health/lib/health/diseases/lymediseaseinvitation.pdf, alefever@chesco.org or (610) 344-6243. Further information about the disease is available at www.chesco.org/health/cwp/view.asp?a=1672&q=647839.

Free Faith and Community Organizations Emergency Preparedness Workshop - Wednesday, May 30

An Emergency Preparedness Workshop for Leaders of Faith and Community Based Organizations will be held from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 30 at the Montgomery County Fire Academy, 1175 Conshohocken Road, Conshohocken.

The event will outline local resources available to individuals and organizations to prepare for and respond effectively to emergencies, the system of disaster response and roles of different agencies and first responders, and help identify gaps, prioritize services and assist organizations in developing emergency plans.

Further information for this limited seating activity that includes breakfast and lunch is available at http://magellanofpa.com/media/474118/emergency%20workshop_5-30-2012.pdf, rslater@chesco.org or (267) 746-0685, with registration at www.surveymonkey.com/s/TXXFDRX.

Free Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Cleanup Supplies and Disposal - Through Thursday, May 31

Great American Cleanup of PA events to clear litter and trash along roadsides, streams, beaches, parks, forests and neighborhoods will receive free cleanup supplies, such as bags, gloves and vests donated by PennDOT and Keep America Beautiful between March 1 and May 31. In addition, during Pick It Up PA Days from Saturday, April 21 to Monday, May 7, sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association, and participating landfills, registered events will have access to free disposal.

Further information on this activity is available at www.gacofpa.org or from Michelle Dunn, program coordinator at mdunn@keepabepbeautiful.org or (724) 836.4121 x113.

NEW THIS WEEK: Emergency Mass Care Shelter Exercise Scheduled – Saturday, June 2; Registration by Friday, May 18

Chester County Department of Emergency Services and the American Red Cross will conduct a Regional Mass Care Shelter Full-Scale Exercise training for volunteers from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 2 at Avon Grove High School, 257 East State Street, West Grove.

Volunteers will help set-up and run the shelter, have an opportunity to tour the facility, and obtain an overview of how each component functions.

Further information and registration is available at <http://agrem.org/Events/Mass%20Care%20Shelter%20Exercise%20Flyer.pdf>, jzeis@chesco.org or (610) 344-5014.

Free Veterans Career Fair - Friday, June 8

Coatesville VA Medical Center will host a Veterans Career Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., June 8 in the Great Hall, Building 5, 1400 Blackhorse Hill Road in Coatesville.

Over 30 employers, along with workshops on federal hiring, networking, and interview skills, will be featured at this veterans and active duty military event, presented by Work Restoration, a Veterans Affairs program connecting veterans with employers.

Further information is available at www.chesco.org/wib/lib/wib/pdf/2012/careerlink/job_fair_flyer_for_veterans_4-5-12.pdf and requested registration at VHACOACareerFair@va.gov, Susan.Wieser@va.gov or (610) 384-7711 x5287.

Free Health Homes Behavioral Workshop - Wednesdays, June 13 and 20

Community Care Behavioral Health Organization will host a *Creating Health Homes: Embracing Recovery* workshop for professionals, consumers and families from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. June 13 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, 815 North Pottstown Pike, Exton, and June 20 at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel, 100 North Fifth Street, Reading.

Presenters will describe components of a health home and how this model addresses the need for integrated care for fully-integrated medical and behavioral health services.

Further information and required registration for the Exton workshop is available at www.ccbh.com/pdfs/Exton_Summer_2012_Institute_Brochure.pdf and the Reading workshop at www.ccbh.com/pdfs/Reading_Summer_2012_Institute_Brochure.pdf, or nealkv@ccbh.com or (412) 454-8646. There are registration deadlines and continuing education units (CEUs) available.

NEW LAST WEEK: Free My Financial Future Campaign Launch Reception – Tuesday, June 12

Financial Stability Partnership of the United Way of Chester County will unveil its new *My Financial Future* campaign from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 12, in the Government Services Center Cafeteria, 601 Westtown Road, West Cheter.

Partnership members will display services to help individuals increase income, build savings, gain and keep assets and access other support services, with Peter Beard, senior vice-president of impact priorities for United Way Worldwide, addressing attendees at 4 p.m. about the importance of building financially stable communities.

Further information on the campaign is available at www.unitedwaychestercounty.org/financial-stability-partnership. Reservations for the launch, to include light refreshments, are requested by Tuesday, June 5, with Janet Umble at janet.umble@unitedwaychestercounty.org.

UPDATED THIS WEEK: Community Organization Networking Connection Meetings (Regular Meeting Dates are Subject to Change)

Coatesville Area Resource Network (CARN) meets from 9:30 to 11 a.m. on the third Thursday of the month, except August, in the fourth floor conference room at Brandywine Health Center at 744 East Lincoln Highway, Coatesville. Representatives of community organizations exchange information about current and upcoming activities and hear presentations from various services providers. Further information is available from Kathryn Spurlack at ccch@comcast.net or at (610) 380-7111 x16

Phoenixville Area Resource Network (PARN) meets from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month, except December, at the First United Methodist Church (north entrance), 865 South Main Street, Phoenixville. Representatives of community organizations exchange information about current and upcoming activities and hear presentations

from various services providers. **On May 22**, TriCounty Home Health and Hospice of Pottstown and The Daniel Foundation of Phoenixville will present. Additional information about the group is available from Debbie Dundon at Open Hearth, Spring City, at (610) 792-9282 x201 or at debbie.openhearth@verizon.net.

Chester County Family and Community Partnership meets from 10 a.m. to noon on the first Friday of February, April, June, August, October and December at various locations. The group is a diverse partnership of individuals, families, community organizations, service agencies, businesses and funders committed to empowering individuals and families in living self-sufficient, productive and fulfilling lives. **On June 1**, at the Chester County Intermediate Unit, 455 Boot Road, Downingtown, ACTIVATE Chester County will present *How Nonprofits Can Get Exercise Into Their Programs and Organizations*. **On August 3**, at the West Chester University Graduate Business School, 1160 McDermott Drive, West Chester, *Trauma Informed Care and Treatment* will be presented, and on **December 7**, at the Government Services Center, there will be a *Natural Supports Panel/System of Care* presentation. Additional information is available from Kathy Brauner at (610) 344-5262 or kbrauner@chesco.org.

COSECHA (Harvest) meets from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month from September through June at the Family Center, 637 Millers Hill, Kennett Square. Paid and volunteer individuals who work with Chester County children, youth and families share information and build partnerships for after-school, out-of-school and summer programs. Further information is available from Laurie Szoke at las7@psu.edu or (610) 696-3500.

Faith Community Nurse Network meets from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. the first Thursday of January, March, May, July, September and November at the Kennett Area Senior Center, 427 South Walnut Street, Kennett Square to exchange information on promotion of holistic health within faith congregations and communities and to develop additional faith community nurses, also known as parish nurses. Further information is available from Joan Holliday at (610) 717- 2180 or Mary Jo Baldino at (610) 696-8312 x113.

Kennett Area Bridging the Community meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesdays of January, March, May, July, September and November at various community locations with any interested individual or organization welcome to attend and share information on resources and needs that can build "bridges" toward a more integrated Kennett area community. **On July 11**, the second summer community barbeque at 6 p.m. at His Mission, 342 East Birch Street, will precede the regular meeting. Meal participants should bring hot dogs, hamburgers or a dish to pass. Additional information is available from Joan Holliday at dochollisv@aol.com or (610) 717-2180. Minutes from prior meetings are available at www.bridgingcommunity.com/bridging.php.

Communities That Care (CTC) groups in several Chester County school districts provide networking opportunities for community organizations and individuals that use a planning and mobilization model to promote healthy youth development and prevent and reduce negative youth health and behavior issues that may include substance abuse, delinquency, teen pregnancy, school drop-out, and violence.

- **West Chester CTC** meets from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., on the second Thursday of each month of the school year at the West Chester Area School District Spellman Administrative Building, 829 Paoli Pike, West Chester. Lunch is provided by reserving at rsvp@wcctc.org or (610) 359-5817.

- **Downingtown Area CTC** meets from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month from September through May at the Lionville Community YMCA, 100 Devon Drive, Exton. **On May 15**, Dominica Libertella of Bryn Mawr Rehab will discuss the Crusin' not Boozing program. Further information is available at (610) 458-9090 x2827 or at dtownctc@umly.org.
- **Great Valley Partnership for Healthy Youth** meets from noon to 1:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month from September through May, at Great Valley School District offices at 47 Church Road, Malvern. Further information is available from Ed Bullen, community mobilizer at mobilizer@gvcophy.org.
- **Coatesville CTC** Community Prevention Board, a body coterminous with the Coatesville Youth Initiative Steering Committee, meets from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. the third Thursday of every other month in the fourth floor meeting room of the Brandywine Health Foundation, 744 East Lincoln Highway, Coatesville. The next meeting is **May 17**. Further information is available from Jarvis Berry, CTC community mobilizer, at (610) 380-9080 x105 or at jberry@brandywinefoundation.org.
- **Octorara CTC** meets at 9:30 a.m. the fourth Wednesday of the month at Octorara High School, 226 Highland Road, Atglen. Further information is available from Jonathan Propper, CTC mobilizer, at (610) 593-8253.

UPDATED THIS WEEK: Support Groups for Unemployed and Underemployed - Ongoing

Several networking/support groups (open to everyone) are available at area churches for persons who are unemployed or underemployed, with each providing its own variety of specific services in support of those who attend:

- **Downingtown** (Lionville/Exton) -- Barnabas Group meets from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. Mondays at Calvary Fellowship Church, 95 West Devon Drive (rear entrance) at Route 113. This activity includes a short Bible study, networking opportunities and periodic special presenters. Additional information is available at <http://www.calvary-fellowship.org/cgibin/gx.cgi/AppLogic+FTContentServer?pagename=FaithHighway/1000/8000/579CA/prayer&projectid=18579>.
- **Malvern** – Penn State Great Valley's Alumni Association and MyCareer Transitions (MCT), an all-volunteer job counseling group, meets from 9:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. the second Saturday of the month, except in August and December, in 130 Main Building, Penn State Great Valley, 30 East Swedesford Road, Malvern, preceded by a new member orientation at 8:30 a.m. **On June 9**, Sandra Ford, executive vice president and senior partner with Kelleher Associates, a career transition and executive coaching firm, will present *How to Ace the Interview*. Further information and required registration is available at www.mycareertransitions.com/new/?q=upcoming-meetings.
- **New London Township**– Weathering the Storm group meets from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. every other Thursday from January through October at the New London Presbyterian Church 1986 Newark Road (Route 896), Lincoln University, with a speaker and networking. Parking is available behind the church and in the parking lot across the road from the church. Further information is available from Beth

McDonough at mcdono@verizon.net or at (302) 894-9223 or at www.nlpcfamily.com/NLPC-Web/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=170.

- **Wayne** – A one-on-one Employment Guidance Ministry, along with periodic special employment related events to aid jobseekers is available at St. David’s Episcopal Church, 763 South Valley Forge Road, Malvern. Further information is available from George Vosburgh at gbvosburgh@aol.com or (610) 688-7947.
- **West Chester** – Unemployment support group meets bi-weekly from 5:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 130 West Miner Street, West Chester, to learn tips and techniques related to job searches. Further information is available from Elisabeth Hartwell at ehartwell@firstpreswc.com, at (610) 696-0554.
- **Six Area Affiliates of Joseph's People** meet during the month:
 - **Downingtown** -- 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays, at St. Joseph's Parish, 338 Manor Avenue (Route 322), in the parish meeting room behind the school at the back of the property. Further information about the affiliate is available by leaving a message at (610) 873-7117.
 - **Berwyn/Main Line** – 7 p.m. to 8:20 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays at the Haggbach Room, St. Monica’s Parish Center, 601 First Avenue. Further information is available from Bob Schubert at (610) 755-2398 or bobschubertjr@aim.com.
 - **Media** -- 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays for GetWorks at Hasler Chapel, Media Presbyterian Church, 30 East Baltimore Pike. **On May 15**, attendees will participate in mock sessions to hone interview skills. Further information is available at (610) 566-3944.
 - **Upper Uwchlan Township** -- 7 p.m. on the first and third Mondays at the School Education Center, St. Elizabeth’s Catholic Church, 100 Fellowship Road, Chester Springs. Further information is available at (610) 321-1200 or at david.bolz@verizon.net.
 - **Reading** – 7 p.m. to 8:30 pm. on the first and third Wednesdays at St Catharine's of Siena Parish Center. 2427 Perkiomen Avenue, Reading. Further information is available from John Senick, facilitator, at (610) 779-4005.
 - **West Grove** – 7 p.m. on the fourth Thursday at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church at 290 State Road, West Grove. Further information is available from John Colgan at johnfcolgan@gmail.com.

Additional information on all St. Joseph’s People chapters is available at www.josephspeople.org

UPDATED THIS WEEK: Free Job Assistance Workshops, Job Openings Report –May

Unemployed and underemployed persons seeking education and training in career planning, along with employment assistance for veterans, ex-offenders and persons with disabilities, can take advantage of a series of monthly workshops offered by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor CareerLink at its Chester County office in Coatesville.

These trainings provide a wide range of information, including a PA CareerLink services orientation, coping with job loss, cover letter, resume writing, interviewing and networking skills; job search strategies for professionals, LinkedIn optimization, finding government jobs, job spidering, an invitation-only professionals job club, and specific employment opportunities for income-eligible persons over 55.

A calendar of PA CareerLink-Chester County workshops is available at www.pacareerlinkchesco.org/calendar. A downloadable calendar available for posting, is at http://www.chesco.org/wib/lib/wib/pdf/2012/careerlink/may_2012_calendar.pdf. Persons interested in seminars may register at (610) 384-9393.

A several-page monthly consolidated list of area job openings is available at http://www.chesco.org/wib/lib/wib/pdf/2012/careerlink/cl_may2012_jobopenings.pdf. Daily position openings updates are available through www.cwds.state.pa.us.

Statistical information on the local labor market is available at www.chesco.org/wib/lib/wib/pdf/2012/data/chesterwia_fast_facts_march2012.pdf and www.chesco.org/wib/lib/wib/pdf/2012/data/countyprofile_march2012.pdf.

Computer Program Classes

Chester County Library and its Henrietta Hankin Branch offer computer classes for individuals, with new and additional offerings at the main facility at 450 Exton Square Parkway, Exton, and the branch at 215 Windgate Drive, Chester Springs (Ludwigs Corner). Other Chester County libraries also are holding different free and fee classes.

Exton offerings include *Word Boot Camp*, introductions to Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Access, *Intermediate Word*, intermediate Excel for both Tables and Printing and Charts and Formulas, *Download Library Books Using Overdrive*, and *Online Job Searching*.

Henrietta Hankin offerings will be on Thursdays in January through March and include Introduction to and Intermediate Microsoft Word 2007 and Introduction to Microsoft PowerPoint 2007.

Further information and pre-registration for limited seating is available at www.eventkeeper.com/code/events.cfm?curOrg=CCL.

Free Household Hazardous and Electronics Waste Collection Schedules Set by Counties

Counties have established 2012 collection procedures and events for household hazardous and electronics waste collections in their respective jurisdictions, with Chester, Montgomery, Delaware, Bucks and Philadelphia counties joining in a regional effort.

Further information, including schedules, locations, items collected and rules are available at:

- Berks County: www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/SWA/Documents/Hazardous%20Waste/2012%20HHW%20Brochure.pdf or (610) 478-6362.
- Chester County: www.chestercswa.org/DocumentView.aspx?DID=405 or (610) 273-3771 x 228.
- Delaware County: www.co.delaware.pa.us/recycle/hhw.html or (610) 891-4000.
- Lancaster County: www.lcswma.org/lcswma_facilities_hhw.html or (717) 397-9968.
- Montgomery County: <http://montcopa.org/montco/CWP/View.asp?a=11&q=85086> or (610)278-3618.

Free Youth Spring Driver Safety Programs Provided by PennDOT

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and local public safety organizations are partnering during the prom and graduation season to provide driver safety programs to youth.

Survival 101 encourage appropriate decision making among middle and high-school students, including information on seat belts, distracted driving and other topics; *Cruisin' Not Boozin* brings teenagers face to face with survivors of automobile accidents that were the direct result of drinking and driving, or texting or talking on a cell phone while driving; and *Ride Like a Friend, Drive Like You Care* is a school-based campaign that encourages safe teen passenger and driver behavior.

The department reports that motor-vehicle crashes are the leading cause of teen death for teens in the state, with 16 to 20-year-olds involved in 1,254 alcohol-related crashes in 2010, with nearly one-third killed in those accidents.

Further information on driver safety for all ages, along with available safety presentations, is available at www.OnlyDrivePA.com.

Free Motorcycle Safety Courses Offered - Through October

Pennsylvania Motorcycle Safety Program (PAMSP) for license and permit holders of all skill levels are being offered at different locations through October.

An Advanced Rider Course (RC), a one-day training session modeled after a military course for licensed motorcyclists wishing to enhance their safety skills through attitude and enhanced awareness, is available for the first time.

Further information, including locations and schedules are available at www.pamsp.com, info@pamsp.com or (800) 845-9533.

Coatesville Summer Youth Jobs Program

Coatesville Youth Initiative again will conduct its summer *ServiceCorps* jobs/leadership program.

ServiceCorps will engage applicants ages 14-18 in an eight-week summer employment and leadership development program, with participants working from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays from June 25 to August 17 at host service sites and participate in leadership development classes on Fridays, receiving \$7.50 per hour for a 35-hour week. Further information and applications may be obtained from www.brandywinefoundation.org/sites/default/files/ServiceCorps%20Youth%20Application%202012.pdf, jgilliam@brandywinefoundation.org or (610) 380-9080 x110.

Schools Establish Electronic Student Assistance Response Systems

Two school districts in northeastern Chester and southwestern Montgomery counties have initiated electronic systems to respond to students in crisis, including new anti-bullying activities.

Phoenixville Area School District has established a Stop Bullying Hotline, monitored by the district superintendent and assistant superintendent, to enable immediate action to reports of student bullying.

Students, parents, community members and staff can make reports at (484) 927-5015 or stopbullying@pasd.k12.pa.us. Further information on the initiative, along with other district anti-bullying activities, is available at www.pasd.com/Page/3879.

Spring-Ford Area School District has established a Friend Watch system on its website for students to provide anonymous reports about friends who may be in trouble.

Further information is available at www.spring-ford.net/modules/cms/pages.phtml?sessionid=2ee0cfce0fae012fc58667ab6141dfbd&pageid=266738&sessionid=2ee0cfce0fae012fc58667ab6141dfbd.

Social Security Trust Funds Depletion Quickens

The Social Security Board of Trustees predicts that without Congressional action, the Disability Insurance Trust Fund will be exhausted in 2016, two years earlier than last year's estimate, and the combined assets of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance (OASDI) Trust Funds will be exhausted in 2033, three years sooner than projected last year.

The Trustees, in its annual report, also project that OASDI program costs will exceed non-interest income in 2012 and will remain higher throughout the remainder of the 75-year period.

Additional information on the report is available at www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/pr/trustee12-pr.html.

Please Note: **New** and **Updated** tags refer only to the time of appearance of information in these E-Updates. Some on-going activities may have been in existence for some time and are being listed for awareness.

Letting People Know/Making a Difference - Ongoing

Feedback indicates that a lack of communications tools is a primary deficiency in bringing community services providers and those needing information together.

If you know of an activity designed to have a real impact on families (this includes individuals and youth) that we should be aware of or might be interested in reporting in these periodic e-mail updates, please let me know, either with details or a web site link. In order to maintain its value, this forum currently is a subjective, selective distribution so all information submitted may not be used.

Also, if you know someone who might be helped by these periodic updates, please forward all or selected portions as you feel appropriate. If you would like to be added to or removed from this list, please hit reply and advise by typing "Subscribe" or "Unsubscribe" or something similar in the Subject line.

Events listed are based on subject matter related to activities impacting families and is based on information reported to us. No endorsement is made or implied.

Suggestions for improvements are encouraged. We currently are developing a more advanced electronic communications method for this type of material that will have more expansive yet less obtrusive characteristics. Please stay tuned.

To submit materials for publication, please refer to the guidelines that follow

Blessings
Casey

Casey Jones
Transformation Initiative
Building Healthy Communities Through Healthy Families
(484) 872-1298 / bps461@msn.com

General Guidelines for Information Submission:

Submission up to two to three months prior to the event is encouraged to increase exposure for new subscribers, persons who don't read the list every week, and for other organizations that want to avoid scheduling opposite an event or might want to collaborate with another in the area. For annual events, longer lead times may be appropriate. Our deadline generally is the Friday before the week of publication.

A general idea of the information needed (many submit too little for the consumer to understand what actually is occurring and why they might like to attend) can be obtained by perusing the publications or using the following guide:

Please use full names followed, if appropriate, by acronyms in parenthesis.

- Name of Event:
- Date(s) - Include both day(s) of week and actual dates:
- Times (Starting and ending):
- Location (Including any applicable room number, particularly in a large facility, and a Mapquest or Google Maps searchable address:
- Sponsoring Organization(s), if not part of the location address:
- Participant Eligibility (Ages, gender, etc.):
- Description of Activities and, as applicable, the presenter and the purpose of the event (Two to three descriptive sentences with the most appealing information; please avoid superfluous words such as "wonderful", "great", etc.):
- Any Fees, including free-will offerings:
- Contact name, e-mail, telephone, along with any web page that is focused primarily on the specific activity:
- Any registration requirements:

We generally use only free activities of a non-commercial nature or those in which a very small materials fee is charged.

- Fund-raising activities generally are not published unless there is a good mixture of free activities also available, including free admission, and a participant has the choice of purchasing incidental items, such as food or crafts.
- Church events generally are published only if they are separate from normal weekly worship services.

Due to the wide variety of activities available, decisions on publication ultimately are determined on a case-by-case basis in context with focus of the publications.