



Putting All the Pieces Together

Picture in your mind one piece from a puzzle. Can you tell me what the final image is? What if I gave you two pieces, or three. Can you see it yet? Of course not. The picture isn't complete without all the pieces. In fact, with even one piece missing, you still can't be completely accurate about the whole picture.

Raising children to be healthy, productive, responsible adults requires they have all the pieces, too.

But what do we mean by "all the pieces?"



You wouldn't teach your children just one skill – like crawling -- and expect that will carry them through life. You know the child needs to develop other skills such as balance, coordination and confidence before they will have the courage to stand up and walk.

In Delaware, we're fortunate that our education system doesn't just focus on one part of a child's development, academics. The schools recognize that an integral part of educational attainment requires caring adults throughout the child's entire day, adults who value relationship-building and social/emotional learning and put those values into practice.

That gives us a huge head start on making sure children develop the wide range of skills and experience they need to develop into well-rounded, contributing adults. The jargon is "developmental assets." In short, that means the skills young people need to develop to be able to forge healthy relationships with their families, schools and communities, as well as the personal qualities they need to be emotionally healthy and develop a value system, self-reliance and self-confidence.

UWDE saw the value of development assets over a decade ago and built it into an initiative we called IM40 that helps adults understand the many personal attributes that make up the entire puzzle of a well-functioning, contributing adult.

This past week, I spent time with some 50 partners from state government, the education community, community-based organizations and United Way of Delaware colleagues. There we discussed how all of us can implement a consistent developmental growth structure that students experience in every aspect of their lives, from early childhood to school age, in daycares, in after-school programs, in community-based organizations, on the sports field, and in the home.

I applaud my colleagues for their commitment to integrating asset development into their operations every day. When we practice this, we will see our youth from a different perspective. We'll be looking at their assets, not focusing on deficiencies. We will really

hear them when they speak. We will recognize that as they grow and develop, their voices and opinions need to be considered and integrated into our work to create a more equitable society. How different our future can be if youth are standing side-by-side, working along with adults, rather than being looked down upon, or worse yet, not even considered!

It's well recognized that newcomers to an institution perceive its characteristics, strengths and procedures differently from those who have internalized the operations.

Taking that into consideration as we work to create "a more perfect union," we need to challenge our thinking, assumptions and preconceived notions. One exciting way we can start this is to ask young people – those newcomers to adulthood -- for their opinions, ideas and perspectives, and let them tell us how they would go about implementing change. I'm sure many of us will be surprised by their commentary on our social norms and their insight into policies and habits that are so ingrained that we don't even see them anymore. Chances are good that we'll learn a lot!

I look forward to finding new platforms for young people to speak and be heard. United Way of Delaware and Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative began creating those opportunities through hosting 17 summer intern colleagues and the production of two youth summits over the past three months. We are committed to finding additional opportunities for young people to use their voices for change.

We urge others – schools, community organizations, and business large and small to change how we listen to our youth, to join us in involving young people in the community conversation. Our young people are not just the leaders of the future, they are leaders now. Let's get them involved!

Sincerely,

Michelle

Michelle A. Taylor, Ed.D.
President and CEO
United Way of Delaware

Back-to-School Event Tomorrow at Wilmington Library

United Way of Delaware and the Wilmington Public Library are holding a back-to-school event at the library at 10 E. 10th Street, Wilmington, tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Registered attendees will receive free bookbags and school supplies.



Other free activities include haircuts, COVID vaccines and face painting. Walnut Street Drum Line and Drill Team will perform at 12:30 p.m.

Some 30 community organizations will be present with displays of their services and products, including:

AmeriHealth Caritas
Beautiful Gate Outreach
Big Brothers Big Sisters DE
Christina Adult Education
Christina Cultural Arts Center

Parent Information Center
PEACE Week Delaware
School-Based Wellness
The Skills Connection
University of Delaware Learner Diversity

Delaware Afterschool Network
Delaware Blue Coats
Delaware Readiness Teams
Delaware Fatherhood & Family Coalition
Promoting Safe & Stable Families
DE Health & Social Services
Girls Inc.
Henrietta Johnson Medical Center
Kool Kolored Kid Generation
Network Connect

Council
University of Delaware TELL Lab Clinical
Research
Urban League Guild
UWDE Help Me Grow
UWDE Delaware 211
UWDE Stand By Me
Vision To Learn
West Side Health

This event is supported by Wilmington City Council, Senator Darius Brown, West Side Health, Henrietta Johnson Medical Center, 100 Black Men of Delaware, Health Life Center, Richards Layton & Finger P.A., and BVD Barbershop. We thank all the sponsors and participating organizations.

Richards Layton & Finger Donates School Supplies

United Way of Delaware and Wilmington Library extend our gratitude to Delaware law firm **Richards, Layton, and Finger** that donated school supplies and helped prepare 250 book bags for distribution at tomorrow's *Back to School* event.

Watch the video of the fun below!



Delaware 211 and Help Me Grow Helping Families Get Connected to School Supplies

The statewide helpline Delaware 211 is a single point of contact that helps people find the answers and resources they need. We work closely with our sister initiative *Help Me Grow*, which has a particular focus on young children.

One of the benefits of our telephone-based system is that we can follow up and reach out to previous callers. Recently the Help Me Grow team sent a text blast to callers we know have school-age children and offered assistance with finding school supplies.



We provided information on numerous school readiness events -- including UWDE's Back to School Resource Fair and Book Bag Giveaway happening tomorrow at Wilmington Library. With one text, we were able to serve 35 families.

To help Delaware 211 continue and expand their important work throughout the

entire state, please consider making a donation today.

The Bancroft School Lyrical Mathematicians - It All Adds Up to Learning

During the 2022 *21st Century Summer Enrichment Program* at the Bancroft School, 4th and 5th grade students participated in a research-based supplemental math intervention program that uses music as a way to enhance basic math skills and build student confidence and mastery.

Using engaging Hip Hop music is at the core of **JFINTV Lyrical Math**. Each lesson begins with a video featuring an original song that teaches a mathematic concept and accompanying skills and strategies.

The music serves to spark students' interest in the math concept. JFINTV staff members break down the lyrics, explaining line-by-line the skills and targeted learning behind the music. The program also connects movement and dance to lyrics, video, and mathematical concepts to aid retention and reinforce learning.

United Way of Delaware partners with The Bancroft School *21st Century Summer Enrichment Program* as part of our commitment to making sure all students are reading on grade level and being well prepared for college and careers. Bancroft School serves one of UWDE's eight Promise Communities.

Click below to watch the video - "Every Single Area" - that features The Bancroft School Lyrical Mathematicians. We're sure you'll love it!





Be Part of the Fun!

Register now to participate in Festival Hispano!

In Wilmington on Sept 11
In Georgetown on Sep 18

If you have a marching band, school group, dance team, cheer team or business that would like to participate, contact parade@nrdelaware.org



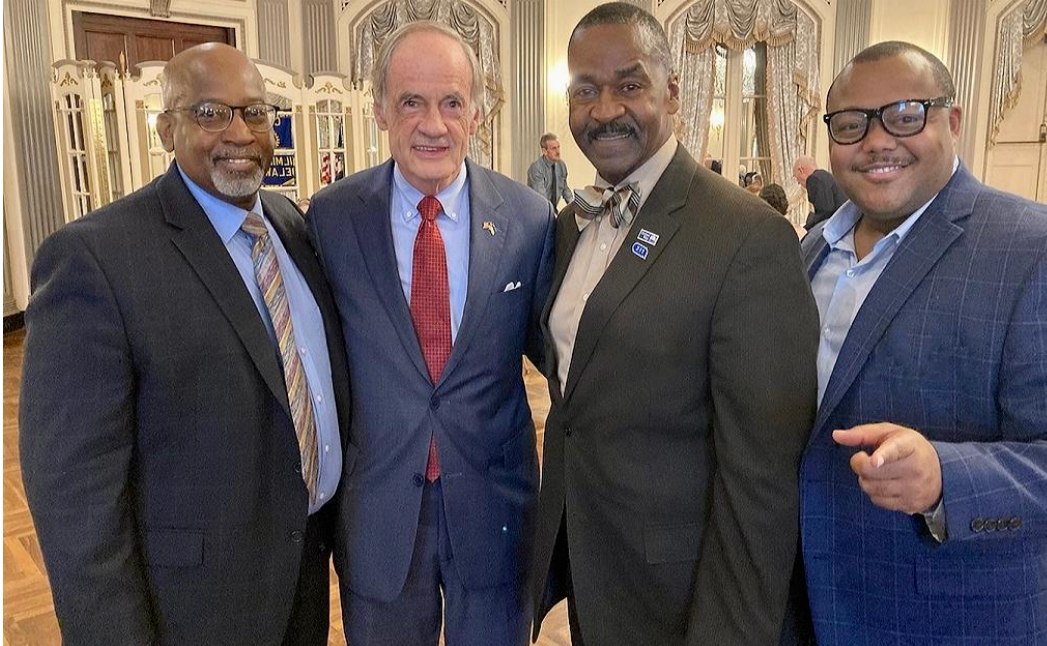
In Delaware, the Hispanic Festival has been a tradition since 1976, brought to you by dedicated volunteers serving Nuestras Raíces DE Inc. This event is an opening celebration to Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept 15 through Oct 15.

UWDE's Latinos Unidos will be there! Come join the celebration with us!



Delaware
Racial Justice Collaborative
Happenings





From left: Darrin Wilson, Chase Bank; U.S. Sen. Tom Carper; John Moore, United Way of Delaware; Brandon Brice, Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative at Wilmington Rotary.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Immunization Awareness Month: It's about more than COVID

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sponsors National Immunization Awareness Month in August to highlight the importance of vaccination for *people of all ages*.

Check **MyHealthfinder vaccine resources** to learn about vaccines necessary at every age to stay healthy. Do you have all of yours?





Find out how WilmU works for you at our **Virtual Open House!**

**Wednesday,
August 17**

7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Live chat starts at 11 a.m.!

 **Online**

At our Virtual Open House, you can:



Live chat with WilmU faculty and staff, starting at 11 a.m. Learn about our academic colleges, financial aid, advising, transfer credit evaluation, and more.



Explore 200+ academic programs, including over 80 industry-leading graduate programs. Learn how to accelerate your education with Dual-Credit ADVANTAGE™.



Learn about affordable funding options and supportive student services.



Watch on-demand videos and download helpful guides and materials.



Navigate the admission process with help from Admissions Specialists and learn how to transfer up to 90 credits.

Get Details and RSVP
go.wilmu.edu/OpenHouse
Application fee waived at this event!



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Film Screening and Discussion

You are invited to a virtual screening of "Suppressed and Sabotaged: The Fight to Vote," followed by a discussion of the film and how we can protect the vote in Delaware!



Tuesday, August 16, 7 to 8:30 pm

The event is co-sponsored by Common Cause Delaware and the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice.

Register: <https://www.mobilize.us/commoncause/event/475100/>

About *Suppressed and Sabotaged: The Fight To Vote* (2022) by Robert Greenwald (Director of Outfoxed, Walmart: The High Cost of Low Price, and Making A Killing: Guns, Greed, and the NRA) is a powerful documentary about the growing threat of voter suppression and election sabotage to our 2022 mid-term elections.

In 2021, 19 states passed 34 new voter laws following the Big Lie of the 2020 election. The film focuses on this recent wave of voter suppression and subversion laws being enacted in states, and how the 2018 Georgia gubernatorial race between Stacey Abrams and Brian Kemp provides a blueprint for today's voter suppression laws across the country.

Suppressed and Sabotaged: The Fight To Vote now includes perspectives from voters in Arizona, Florida, Texas, and Georgia that highlight how these new laws will affect their constitutional right to vote. Suppression tactics covered in the film include registration hurdles, polling place closures, voter purges, missing absentee ballots, extreme wait times at polling locations, exact match disqualifications, new vote by mail limitations, changes to ballot collection and drop off, and more.

Voter suppression laws disproportionately affect American Students, Senior Citizens, Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and People of Color from casting their ballots. *Suppressed and Sabotaged* is a call to action against the calculated, unconstitutional, and racist attacks intended to suppress the right to vote in America.

Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_RhrbEh-osI

It's Easy to Support United Way of Delaware

Your donation to United Way helps us work to make Delaware a great state to live, work and play for all our neighbors.



[Make an online donation here](#)

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Shopping at Amazon? Start at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and feel better about spending money! Just set United Way of Delaware as your charity of choice. Then spend away and Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to us — no fees, no extra cost!



