



This Edition of Feel Good Friday Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month in Delaware



Soy Latina....

“To feel the love of people whom we love is a fire that feeds our life” – Pablo Neruda

Hispanic Heritage month kicks off on September 15, and for a month we actively celebrate and commemorate the innumerable influences and contributions which Latinos have provided to American society.

For me, this time is a celebration of who I am, where I came from, and how I am being of service to my community. To be Latina for me is to breathe; I do not know how to be anything other than who I am and proud of where I came from.



My mother was Chilean and my father Puerto Rican, both varied and rich cultures. My childhood was a fusion of language, food, dances, and history. I grew up listening to and speaking Spanish, and eating the delicious bounty of flavorful native dishes my Puerto Rican Abuela (grandmother) made for me.

I fell in love with the language before I even could comprehend it, as my mother put me to sleep by reading Chilean author, Pablo Neruda. Memories abound of learning to dance the Argentinian tango with my grandmother or my father teaching me about our native indigenous Taino history. I, like many before and after me, am proud of my culture and my history.

Latinos are a melting pot of culture, language and history as diverse and unique as the countries we represent, from Peru to Santa Domingo, we all chant the same thing when we are asked..we are LATINO.

Proud and present, we stand united and one community. It is that familiarity with one another which binds us. United States Past President George W. Bush once said: "Not all of the contributions made by Hispanic Americans to our society are so visible or so widely celebrated. However, Hispanic Americans have enriched our nation beyond measure with the quiet strength of closely knit families and proud communities."

I invite you to use this wonderful time of the year to explore and learn more about us--our history, ancestors, leaders, innovators, and inventors. We are more than the music you may hear, or the food you may enjoy.

We are the descendants of Aztec, Incan, Taino, Mayan and Arawak. Our forefathers discovered and built much of this country. Today, we are Supreme Court Justices, international leaders, astronauts and civil activists.

For example, take Angelo Falcón (June 23, 1951 – May 24, 2018) who was a Puerto Rican political scientist best known for starting the Institute for Puerto Rican Policy (IPR), a nonprofit and nonpartisan policy center that focuses on Latino issues in the United States.

Or Ellen Ochoa, an American engineer, former astronaut and former director of the Johnson Space Center. In 1993, Ochoa became the first Hispanic woman to go to space when she served on a nine-day mission aboard the Space Shuttle *Discovery*.

Awareness of who you are and where you come from is part of our individual journey, but when we gather and share, we become part of each other's story. I invite you to explore and enjoy the rich history of my Latino community and leave this final quote: Si tienes un sueño, no dejes que nadie te lo quite." - Selena Quintanilla
(If you have a dream, do not let anyone take it from you – Selena Quntanilla)

Sincerely,

Laura

Laura Margarita Gendreau
Director, Stand By Me & Housing Stability
United Way of Delaware

Stand By Me Addresses Financial Education and Specific Needs of Latinos

Stand By Me (SBM) is a financial empowerment program established as a public/private partnership between the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) and the United Way of Delaware (UWDE).

SBM is a proven financial coaching model with a 12-year record of success throughout Delaware. Trained, experienced financial coaches work with clients one-on-one to identify financial goals and to develop short and long-term strategies to meet

those goals, including employment, debt reduction, refinancing, credit repair and more.

Stand By Me Hispano was created to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services by culturally competent financial coaches. Our Stand By Me Hispano coaches are familiar and versed in the financial industry and also work to create a funnel of information and resources. Our coaches offer personalized advice in Spanish to help individuals and couples overcome their personal financial challenges, set goals and achieve their dreams.

Stand By Me Hispano also offers financial management workshops called “Mind Over Money” to help clients manage money, navigate the U.S. financial system, avoid predatory financial services, and improve their credit scores.

Workshops are given in English and/or Spanish under a partnership with the Delaware Department of Education and its English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for adults.

Since its inception in 2011, Stand By Me has:
Helped more than 32,510 clients improve their credit
Achieved an average per-client 80-point credit score increase
Achieved debt reduction totalling \$35,142,614
Achieved an average client debt reduction of \$4,842
Increased client savings by an average of \$3,610
Achieved total savings among all clients of more than \$44 million
Helped 1,122 clients purchase a home
Helped 1,249 clients purchase a vehicle

Stand By Me serves all Delawareans, but has recognized the need to serve those most vulnerable by providing education and resources for those who face added challenges in navigating the complexities of financial security and stability.

For more information, visit us at: www.standbymede.org

Meet One of the Stand By Me Spanish Speaking Coaches

Meet Duniesky Landa-Ruiz, one of our valued Stand By Me Hispano coaches.

How did you get involved in Stand By Me?

I was working with the LACC (Latin American Community Center) for eight years prior to becoming a Stand By Me Financial Coach. In 2014, I was offered the opportunity to become part of a new program which was being launched as the Stand By Me Hispano Program. The SBM Hispano Program specifically works with the Latino community, many of whom face language barriers and are unfamiliar with the financial landscape of this country. I was interested in the position because my background is in economics and for me it seemed to be the perfect position, which has proven to be true. The opportunity to combine my educational background in finance and my passion for helping those in my community was, and is a win-win!



What is your greatest satisfaction with the job?

Working with my customers to provide them with a thorough understanding of the complex financial landscape in this country is one of the most satisfying aspects of my

position. I am honored to assist and watch them become financially independent and build their own wealth, all while raising their families and often working multiple jobs. Helping persons newly arrived to this country with securing IT numbers, filing taxes, opening bank accounts and opening their own businesses is just some of what I do every day.

How do you think Stand By Me Hispano benefits the community?

My customers learn the financial processes in their own native language. I am able to connect them with resources, services and opportunities which they may not be familiar with. I see many of them becoming entrepreneurs and homeowners which elevates their income and opens up multiple doors of opportunity so they can really achieve the American Dream.



Fiesta Latina at Latin American Community Center

By Emily Aguirre

What a great way to start our Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration! Fiesta Latina at the LACC was the perfect location to commence the celebration. Among the many events and activities was a raffle to help raise money for a new playground at the corner of 4th and Harrison Streets.



Maria Matos, President and CEO of the Latin American Community Center, thanked the event's sponsors. She discussed Hispanic pride and how the Latin American Community Center played a crucial role in helping the community over the years.

There were also speeches from Governor John Carney, Senator Coons, and other Delaware political leaders to proclaim the start of Hispanic Heritage month.

Nemours Children's Health donated \$40,000 to help with the building of the new playground.

Food and music was donated by local restaurants and LACC staff.

And thanks to UWDE's own Laura Gendreau for her wonderful work as Master of Ceremonies!

**During Hispanic Heritage Month,
we want to introduce you to a few of our Latino neighbors**

and friends who are living and working in Delaware.
Here are the first two profiles.



Amal Reda, Building Partnerships in Sussex County

Amal Reda is the program coordinator at La Colectiva de Delaware. Amal was born and raised in Colombia to a Lebanese family and has worked in the non-profit and private sectors.

She has developed skills in leadership, diversity, equality, and inclusion, and is particularly interested in advocacy, civil rights and minority groups. Amal has a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in political science and international affairs from the Lebanese American University in Beirut.



Amal joined La Esperanza to guide La Colectiva de Delaware (LCD) in its mission to foster trust and cooperation among Sussex County's nonprofits, governmental organizations, and the Latino community.

In the past few years, La Colectiva has brought together nonprofits, government agencies, and the Latino community of Sussex County to develop relationships based on trust, manage shared work, and design solutions for issues facing the Latino community.

For more information about La Colectiva de Delaware and its programs, please visit: www.lacolectivadelaware.org or contact Amal Reda at areda@laesperanza.org.



La Esperanza's mission is to assist Sussex County Latinos on their journey to achieve stability, integration, and success. Our vision is an inclusive and thriving community where hope is fulfilled.



La Colectiva de Delaware envisions an empowered, trusting & connected Latino community. La Colectiva inspires, advances, and facilitates collaboration to improve the lives of Latino youth and families in Sussex County.

Emily Aguirre – From Ecuador to Delaware

My name is Emily Aguirre and I am 22 years old. I am originally from Guayaquil, Ecuador, and I moved to Delaware when I was seven years old. When I first came to Delaware, I only spoke Spanish and the only family we had living here at

the time was my aunt, her husband, and my two cousins.

Leaving the rest of my family in Ecuador was difficult, but since I was still young, I adjusted pretty quickly to the move. I learned English in about six months and worked hard to get good grades in school. Throughout High School, I took AP and IB classes which helped me move on to the University of Delaware. In my first two years, I did a program at Deltech through the University of Delaware, which allowed me to save money and excel academically.



After those two years, I started taking classes at the UD campus, declaring my major as Marketing. After four long years, I was able to graduate with high honors in May 2022.

I have been working with United Way of Delaware part-time for over a year. I specifically work with the Hispanic and Brown communities in our Boots on the Ground Program that aims to help our communities get more information about the Covid-19 vaccine. I am delighted to be helping my community; we have made significant progress throughout the program.

How's Your Hispanic Culture Knowledge?

Did you know about these Latin Music and Dance Genres?

- Salsa. Salsa is one of the most popular Latin music genres in the entire world.
- Bachata. Originally from the Dominican Republic, bachata is one of the most popular Latin music genres today.
- Regional Mexican Music. Considering everything that included, regional Mexican music is one of the most generic terms in Latin music.
- Tango. Thanks to its intensity and sensuality, tango has become one of the favorite Latin music genres in dance halls worldwide.
- Merengue. Merengue is another of the musical gifts that Latin music has received from the Dominican Republic.
- Latin Pop. Latin pop is one of the most popular Latin music genres today, and some of the biggest Latin music stars in the world belong to this genre.
- Latin Urban Music and Reggaeton. Borrowing influences from music styles such as hip-hop, rap, and reggae, Latin urban music has experienced significant changes during the last two decades.
- Latin Rock and Alternative Music. In general terms, the development of Latin rock has been influenced by the development of rock music.



¿Sabías que? Los géneros esenciales de la música Latina

- Salsa. La salsa es uno de los géneros de música latina más populares en todo el mundo.
- Bachata. Originaria de la República Dominicana, la bachata es uno de los géneros de música latina más populares en la actualidad.
- Música Regional Mexicana. Considerando todo lo que incluye, la música regional mexicana es uno de los términos más genéricos de la música latina.
- Tango. Gracias a su intensidad y sensualidad, el tango se ha convertido en uno de los géneros favoritos de la música latina en las salas de baile de todo el mundo.
- Merengue. El merengue es otro de los regalos musicales que la música latina

ha recibido de la República Dominicana.

- Pop latino. El pop latino es uno de los géneros de música latina más populares en la actualidad, y algunas de las estrellas de la música latina más grandes del mundo pertenecen a este género.
- Música Urbana Latina y Reggaeton. Tomando prestadas influencias de estilos musicales como el hip-hop, el rap y el reggae, la música urbana latina ha experimentado cambios significativos durante las últimas dos décadas.
- Rock Latino y Música Alternativa. En términos generales, el desarrollo del rock latino ha sido influenciado por el desarrollo de la música rock.

Latinos Unidos Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

UWDE's **Latinos Unidos** enjoys the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Our countries are united in many ways through our music, foods, and similar cultural and religious beliefs.

Today we present the main dishes of each of the Hispanic Countries. There are some ingredients that all Hispanic households do have in their kitchens, and these ingredients are perhaps the most important of all in Spanish cooking. They are olive oil, saffron, paprika, jamón ibérico, garlic, olives, and sherry vinegar.

21 Countries, 21 Main Dishes

Enchiladas de Pollo – Mexico	Mangú – Dominican Republic
Paella - Spain	Pupusa – El Salvador
Ropa Vieja – Cuba	Pollo a la Pepián – Guatemala
Baleadas – Honduras	Gallo Pinto – Nicaragua
Ceviche de Camrones – Ecuador	Arepas – Venezuela
Lomo Saltado – Perú	Mofongo/Pernil – Puerto Rico
Carbonera Criolla – Argentina	Mbeyu – Paraguay
Salteñas/Tucumanas – Bolivia	Casado – Costa Rica
Congrio – Chile	Sancocho de gallina Panameño –
Bandeja Paisa – Colombia	Panama
	Succotash – Equatorial Guinea

Mes de la Herencia Hispana

UWDE Latinos Unidos continúa la celebración de nuestro Mes de la Herencia Hispana. Nuestros países están unidos de muchas maneras, y ya sea a través de nuestra música, alimentos, creencias similares culturales y religiosas. Hoy te presentamos los platos principales de cada uno de los países hispanos. Hay algunos ingredientes que todos los hogares hispanos tienen en sus cocinas, y estos ingredientes son quizás los más importantes de todos en la cocina española. Estos ingredientes son; aceite de oliva, azafrán, pimentón, jamón ibérico, ajo, aceitunas y vinagre de jerez.

21 Países, 21 Platos

Enchiladas de Pollo – Mexico	Mangú – Dominican Republic
Paella - Spain	Pupusa – El Salvador
Ropa Vieja – Cuba	Pollo a la Pepián – Guatemala
Baleadas – Honduras	Gallo Pinto – Nicaragua
Ceviche de Camarones – Ecuador	Arepas – Venezuela
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Carbonera Criolla – Argentina	Mbeyu – Paraguay
Salteñas/Tucumanas – Bolivia	Casado – Costa Rica
Congrio – Chile	Sancocho de gallina Panameño –
Bandeja Paisa – Colombia	Panama
	Succotash – Equatorial Guinea

All About Latinos Unidos - UWDE Affinity Group

[To review this article in English, please visit our website](#)



Misión:

La misión del UWDE Latinos Unidos es apoyar a la Comunidad Hispana con un enfoque estratégico en educación temprana, preparación profesional y estabilidad financiera. En Delaware, la población hispana ha crecido un 50% en la última década. Representan el 12% de la población del estado. Un grupo que se enfrenta a muchos desafíos en varias áreas, por ejemplo, barreras lingüísticas, estatus migratorio y más

Visión:

United Way of Delaware visualiza una comunidad donde cada uno tiene la oportunidad de alcanzar su potencial. En el centro de esta visión hay tres prioridades estratégicas:

- Asegurar de que los niños de Delaware estén leyendo a nivel de grado y preparados para tener éxito en la escuela
- Asegurar de que cuando se gradúen de la escuela secundaria, los jóvenes de Delaware estén preparados para la universidad y o listo para entrar en la fuerza de trabajo
- Asegurar de que las familias hispanas de Delaware estén financieramente estables y posicionadas para prosperar, proporcionándoles recursos, educación y conocimiento en el campo de las finanzas.

¿Quiénes Somos? Comité Directivo:

- Pensadores estratégicos: Los miembros del Comité Directivo de Latinos Unidos proporciona liderazgo y experiencia en el desarrollo de un camino para lograr los objetivos estratégicos de la organización.
- Conectando líderes con líderes: El Comité Directivo de Latinos Unidos valora el talento como la clave del éxito. Atrae y desarrolla líderes y asociaciones críticas dentro de la Comunidad Hispana
- Abogar por la Comunidad: El Comité Directivo de Latinos Unidos es experto en políticas públicas en nombre de las necesidades dentro de las comunidades latinas de nuestro estado mientras es un recurso o aporta recursos para satisfacer las necesidades
- Centrado en el futuro: El Comité Asesor de Latinos Unidos está comprometido con la sostenibilidad a largo plazo del apoyo a la misión de United Way de Delaware.
- Steward of Brand and Trust: El Comité Asesor de Latinos Unidos entiende la importancia decisiva de nuestra marca e infunde confianza en United Way de Delaware al trabajar con energía e integridad para fortalecer y proteger la reputación de la organización por el liderazgo ético y el servicio comunitario.

Comité Directivo de Latinos Unidos:

Pedro Viera, PNC – Chair
Elizabeth Diaz, Chemours – Co-Chair
Wanda Barrett – UWDE Lead
Sam Su, PNC
Julissa Coriano, Ph D, MSW, M.Ed
Casey Davis, LACC

Monique Bowford, DuPont
Damary Todman, DHSS
Tiffany Hooper, HR PNC
Adam Flores
Margie Rivera, ASPIRA Consultant
Yvette Santiago Nemours- Consultant

Latinos Unidos en acción: Iniciativas:

- Angeles de la Lectura
- Warm Clothing/Gear Drive

- Food Delivery
- Financial Series (PNC) Spanish
- Virtual Teachers Appreciation Day
- Back to School
- Laptop Donation
- Register to Vote Campaign
- Thanksgiving Turkey drive
- Christmas Parade in collaboration with Casa de Restauración Siloé
- Read Across America Day in Spanish
- Real Talk COVID-19 "Hablemos de la Vacuna."
- Sponsor the "Roberto Clemente Baseball Team."
- Project "Claro Que Si!"
- Job Fair – DHSS, LACC, UWDE

¿Cómo puedes unirte?

Suscríbete usando nuestro [sistema para voluntarios](#)

Póngase en contacto con Wanda Barrett en wbarrett@uwde.org

LATIN FOOD FEST

October 8, 2022

Para todas las pequeña empresas que buscan promocionar o vender sus productos en este evento, comuníquese con **Josue O. Ortega** at latinfoodfest@newcastlede.gov

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage
Glasgow Regional Park
 2275 Pulaski Hwy, Newark, DE 19702


 Matt Meyer
 County Executive





THE WILMINGTON LIBRARY

invites you to our

HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION



DJ/music, food, vendors, drummers, dancing, special guest speaker and more...

Date: Saturday, October 1st 2022
Time: 12:00pm - 4:00pm
Location: Wilmington Public Library
10 E. 10th St. Wilmington, De 19801



SAVE THE DATE

WilmingtonLibraryDE



Our Partner: Delaware Hispanic Commission

Mission: To uphold the impact and needs of the Delaware Hispanic community."

Vision Statement: "A Delaware where Hispanics have power, equity and opportunities."

Delaware Hispanic Commission (DHC), whose members are appointed by the governor, was formed to identify and advocate the necessary resources for Delaware Hispanics, the fastest-growing population in the First State.



DHC is committed to enriching the lives of the Hispanic community by: improving delivery of services; raising awareness of issues at state agencies; suggesting solutions to state leaders and agencies; and keeping the Hispanic community informed of state assistance available for all Delaware residents.

The Commission has 16 appointed members who represent various socioeconomic and geographical areas of Latin America. At the helm of the DHC is Carlos de los Ramos, Chair of the Commission, who joined the Commission in 2015 and is a long-time leader within the Latino community in Delaware. Current Commission members are:

Carlos de los Ramos, Chair
Rony Baltazar-Lopez, Vice-Chair
Brian Legum, Treasurer
Laura Gendreau, Secretary
Dr. Rosa Colon-Kolacko
Mary Dupont
Maria Matos
Jose Irizarry

Neil Kirschling
Givvel Marrero
Nancy Lemus
Margie Lopez-Waite
Jack Sanders
Patricia Rivera
Pedro Viera
Rosanna Mena

For more information and/or to volunteer, visit: www.delawarehispanic.org

The Work Development Program Presents

LACC's Job Fair

The LACC Workforce Development Program will host its Job Fair on Saturday, October 22, 2022, hosted by our Platinum Sponsor The Brandywine Plaza Hotel.

There will be a raffle every hour during this event!
Enroll in the program using the link below:
<https://forms.gle/7H6YWPZgspjtb318>

Brought to you by: Brandywine Plaza

Providers include:

- Medical Receptionists
- Financial Education and Community Outreach
- Hotel and Hospitality
- Warehouses Parcel Handlers
- Food Services and more!

Date

October 22, 2022

Location

630 Naamans Rd,
Claymont, DE
19703

Contact us:
(302) 455-7338 www.thelearningcenter.org #LACCProgramadeEmpleo

El Programa De Desarrollo Laboral del LACC Presenta

Feria de Empleo

El Programa de Desarrollo Laboral del LACC organizará su Feria de Empleo el sábado 22 de octubre de 2022 organizada por nuestro Patrocinador Platino El Brandywine Plaza Hotel.

Habrà una rifa cada hora durante este evento.
Inscribirse en el Programa utilizando el enlace a continuación:
<https://forms.gle/7H6YWPZgspjtb318>

Traido a usted por: Brandywine Plaza

Los Proveedores Incluyen:

- Recepcionistas Médicos
- Educación Financiera y Alianza Comunitaria
- Hotelería y Hospitalidad
- Manipuladores de paquetes de almacén
- Servicios de comida y más!

Fecha

October 22, 2022

Ubicación

630 Naamans Rd,
Claymont, DE
19703

Contacta con nosotros:
(302) 455-7338 www.thelearningcenter.org #LACCProgramadeEmpleo

Another Spectacular AFL-CIO Golf Tournament

Thank you to the sponsors, golfers, and Back Creek Golf Club for making this year's AFL-CIO Golf Tournament a success. Watch [the video below](#) to find out more.



Literacy Kits Built and Distributed by UWDE and PREP

An amazing 900 Literacy kits were assembled to be given to preschool and kindergarten children as they begin the 2022-2023 school year in an initiative that was a partnership with Prekindergarten Reading Encouragement Project (PREP) and United Way Delaware (UWDE).

The 900 children will benefit from the generous support from Christiana Care Health Services as well as some 40 individual donors.

United Way volunteers assembled 500 Literacy Kits and PREP volunteers made 400. The two nonprofit organizations will distribute the kits to schools and preschool centers throughout September.

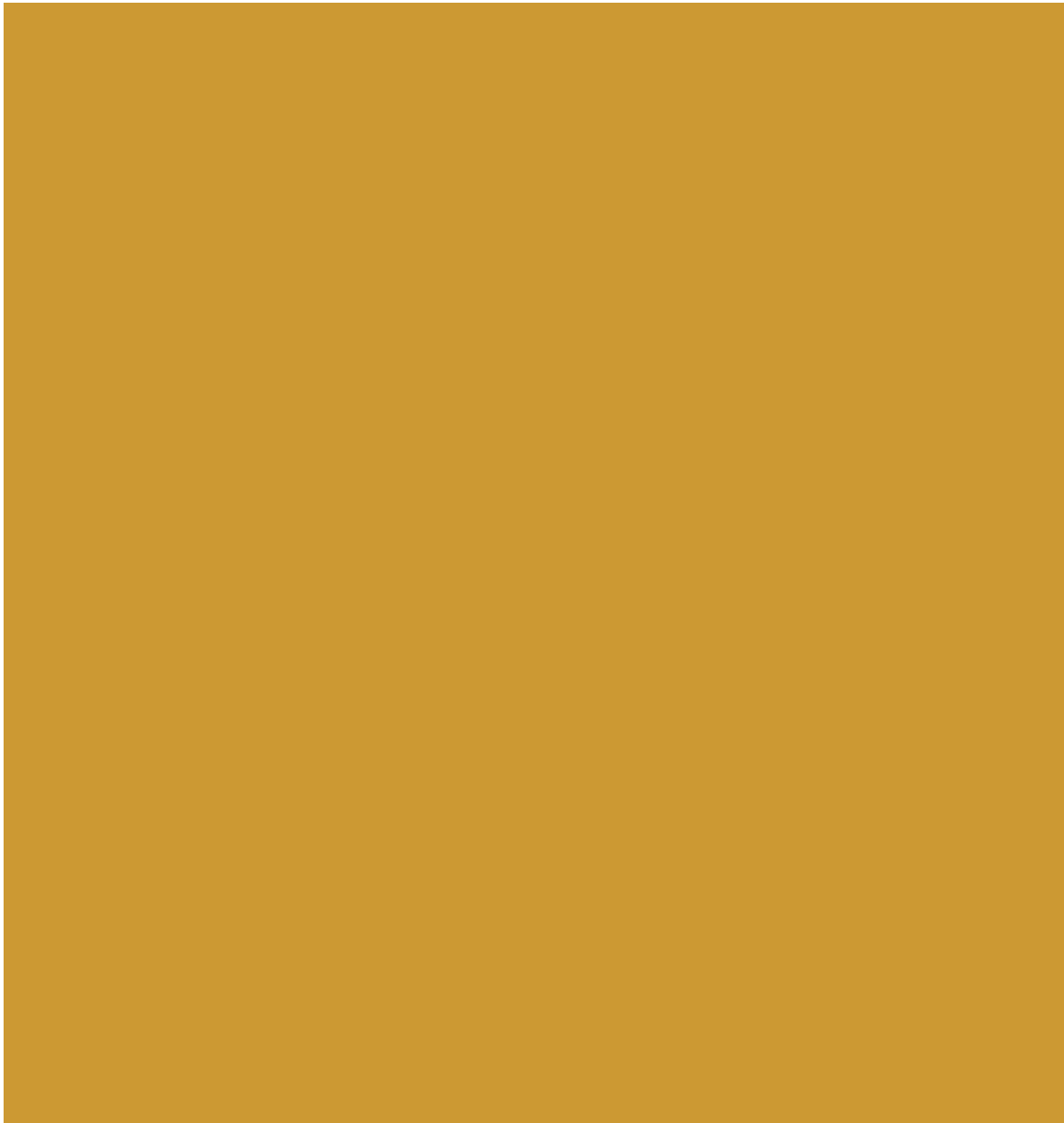


Charter School of Wilmington students helped assemble 400 Literacy Kits



UWDE Volunteers assembled 500 Literacy Kits.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Governor's Central Delaware **CAREER EXPO**

Learn about careers in a
variety of fields, including:

-  **Construction**
-  **Education**
-  **Health care**
-  **Logistics**
-  **Manufacturing**
-  **Public Service**
-  **Transportation**

And many other professions!



September 21 | 3:00-6:00pm

Blue Hen Corporate Complex

governor.delaware.gov/careerexpo

Thank you to our sponsors!



Learn About Housing Rights

Educate, Advocate, Housing Rights Matter: A
Delaware Town Hall

Join the Delaware Continuum of Care's Racial
Justice and Advocacy & Policy Committee as they
shed light on the Housing Crisis in the state of
Delaware.

Please participate in a public conversation and
opportunity to learn more about how Housing
Instability and Racial Injustice are rapidly affecting
Black and Brown communities in Delaware.

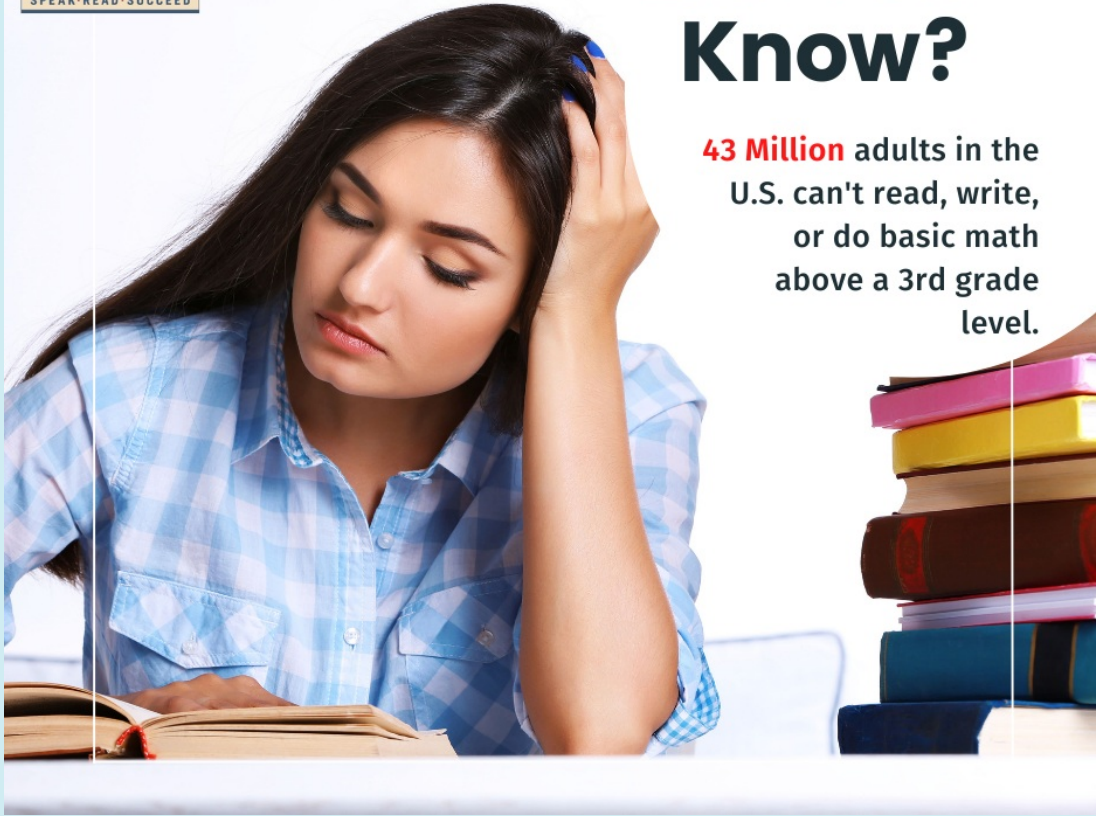
Wednesday, September 28, 2022 from Noon to



DELAWARE
Continuum of Care

3:00 p.m.
Delaware State University
Education and Humanities Building
1200 N Dupont Hwy
Dover, DE 19901

[Register here](#)



LITERACY
Delaware
SPEAK · READ · SUCCEED

Want to know how you can help? Visit:
<https://www.literacydelaware.org/>

Did You Know?

43 Million adults in the U.S. can't read, write, or do basic math above a 3rd grade level.

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](#)



Start With a Smile

Shopping at Amazon? Start at 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!



United Way of Delaware | 625 North Orange Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

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