

Spring into Action

The warm weather reminds us that we are officially into spring. A lot of our school districts are on spring break and kids are enjoying the week off playing with friends. I'm sure teachers also enjoy the break spending time with their own children.

Reflecting on my own children's spring breaks, I have happy memories of spending time with them (and their friends) playing basketball, fishing, swimming, board games and just enjoying the quality time together. It reminds me of a study recently cited by the National Association for the Education of the Young Child that indicated that it's not the quantity of time people spend with young children but the quality of the time. They call it "meaningful connections" and their recommendation is to keep it simple until you have a big idea.



Here are three of their suggestions that made me smile:

- Play with your child, even if it's during bath time or outside before you drop her off at preschool. Every little bit of time makes a positive impact!
- Laugh and be silly with your child.
- Turn off technology when you spend time with your child. Try not to text, answer calls, scroll through social media, or watch television.

See how easy it is? The interaction itself is what matters, more than what you do, so don't put it off.

It's a little harder to get quality time with older children, so you may need to be more creative. We played board games -- I guess that's ancient history! But as a parent of grown children, I just want to remind parents to enjoy the moment - stay in the present. They grow up in a flash.

On another matter, while some of us have been enjoying spring break with family and friends (as we should), another group of amazing individuals has been giving their valuable time helping our neighbors in southern Delaware whose lives and homes were devastated by the recent tornado. Visit our [Volunteer page](#) to find out how you can help.

I know it's easy to be distracted by the beautiful weather, but I urge you to please help support our neighbors by donating to the [Care4Sussex Fund](#) or by volunteering.

Sincerely,
Michelle
Michelle A. Taylor, Ed.D.

See How M&T Bank Employees Serve Their Community

For more than 75 years United Way of Delaware has empowered the most vulnerable in our community thanks to strong partnerships with companies like M&T Bank. Thank you, M&T Bank employees for all you do for Delaware. [Click on](#) the graphic below to watch a short video clip.



Volunteers and Donations Needed!

The recent tornado and severe weather devastated many homes in Sussex County. Together with our community partners, United Way of Delaware (UWDE) is working to help those affected access resources and services through Delaware 211.

We currently are working with 115 individuals/families who have been impacted by the tornado in collaboration with DEMA, DE VOAD, American Red Cross, DHSS/CPSU, First State Community Action and Good Ole Boys Foundation as well as other community organizations to provide resources, information and assistance.

Please support our neighbors by helping with the clean-up of the debris left behind. We need volunteers this coming weekend and next weekend. To find out more, take a

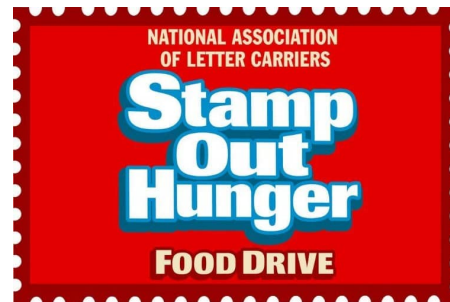
quick look at our [U-Volunteer Portal](#) for several options and opportunities where you can assist.

You also are invited to make a financial contribution to the "Care4Sussex" Campaign [here](#).

Fully 100% of your donation will go directly to the community to support the short and long-term needs of individuals and families. Please consider helping out our neighbors in any way you can.

Help Stamp Out Hunger on May 13

On **Saturday, May 13**, United Way will join our long-term partner, the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) for a day-long food drive. Every year, letter carriers drop off co-branded bags in more than 10,000 communities across America and on May 13 they collect the bags filled with food. Last year, they collected some 43.1 million pounds of food.



Here in Delaware, the Letter Carriers food drive is conducted in partnership with the AFL-CIO, UWDE and the Food Bank of Delaware. Our sponsor Discover will cover the cost of the bags that will be delivered to each mailbox. Our partners still need volunteers. Learn more [here](#).

Fresh, nutritious food is a requirement for healthy living and should not be a luxury. Thank you for your commitment to help end hunger in our communities.

Hope Center and Stubbs EEC go to the White House

Some 30 children from the Hope Center and Stubbs Early Education Center's Let's Grow, Act, Win (LGAW) program, accompanied by about 20 adults, travelled to Washington D.C. to the White House for the 2023 White House Easter Egg Roll.

This year's event, the "Easter EGGucation Roll," provided many fun and enriching activities along with the traditional egg roll and hunt. Throughout the day the children listened to a school orchestra and band, and as a special treat, the United States Marine Corps Band. They also met celebrities such as singer-songwriter, actress, and "Ariel" in Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, Halle Bailey, Baltimore Ravens player Matt Lawrence, many favorite costumed characters and President Joe Biden!

Thanks to these folks for making this special day happen:

- Dr. Whitney Williams, Principal, Stubbs Early Education Center
- Andrea Collins-White, Academic Dean of Students, Stubbs Early Education Center
- Stubbs staff and student families
- Coach John Williams, Director, Hope Center After School Program
- Lisa Oglesby, Managing Director, NCC Hope Center
- Dr. Deirdre Joyner of Christina School District
- Maria Scarsone NCC Deputy Principal Assistant
- Shanera Thomas, Aide in After School Program
- Genean Matthews, Hope Center staffer
- Opra Henry, Hope Center staffer
- NCC Hope Center Families

Let's Grow, Act, Win, LLC (LGAW) and United Way of Delaware (UWDE) have long been advocates for connecting in-school and out-of-school services and programs for K-12 youth, and dual-generational wraparound services. We have joined together to help meet the needs of Delaware students and families who are experiencing homelessness. LGAW operates an out-of-school program for Hope Center residents, and UWDE provides services to connect student families to wraparound supports through Delaware 211.



With Help from a Stand By Me Coach, Wilmington man becomes a homeowner

From the Food Bank of Delaware website

Tom – not his real name – has worked toward home ownership for several years, and he's about to reach that goal.

Almost four years ago, he connected with Marilyn, one of our *Stand By Me* financial coaches. Stand By Me offers free personal, private, one-on-one financial coaching through a partnership between local nonprofits, United Way of Delaware and the State of Delaware.

Tom admits he's had some setbacks. This Wilmington resident has a job; he's worked for 10 years as a service agent for a rental car company. He's enrolled in the Wilmington Housing Authority's first-time home buyers' program. He's currently living in the home he's about to buy.

"I had a low credit score," said Tom. "I had no idea what direction to go. She (Marilyn) helped me out big time."

Tom said he met with Marilyn who explained the steps he needed to follow to improve his credit score and meet the WHA's program criteria. "She taught me how to spend money, to improve my ways of spending. I learned to keep a budget. I had to eliminate the things I didn't need," he said.

Tom acknowledges that making these lifestyle changes required time and patience. "I'm close to closing (on the house). I have to do one more thing. I'm 52 years old. I've had setbacks, but Marilyn has helped me. I keep on pushing. Like they say, 'Good things come to those who wait.'... I'm going to keep up the connection with Stand By Me. It's a good program," he said.



Marilyn Ramirez
Food Bank Of Delaware
Financial Coach

Thank you, Marilyn, for your dedication to this work and your clients. You make us proud.
For more information, visit Stand By Me [here](#).

Minority Small Business Program Now Accepting Applicants

Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy. The *Stand By Me Minority Small Business Program* (MSB) helps minority entrepreneurs improve the way they do business so that they can be a positive force in the community for years to come. We are beginning to assemble our third cohort and applications are now open.

Participating business owners will learn from experts in one-on-one coaching sessions. An experienced business coach helps give new perspectives and establish accountability to help achieve business goals. To learn more and to apply, visit our [website here](#).



MSB program participants
Cecily and Gary Hoey of Direct Flooring

A Night at the Opera

OperaDelaware recently hosted a fun-filled Opening-Night "Microgala" and live performance of La Traviata. The Microgala, held in the lobby of The Baby Grand at The Grand Opera House in Wilmington was the setting for drinks, laughter and fellowship over friendly card games with Casino Nights Live. Professionally-run games of Poker and Blackjack and a poker tournament for a chance to win a \$1000 grand prize provided excitement to gear up attendees for the emotion-filled opera that followed. The beauty of the music was enhanced by the video screens that offered English translation of the Italian words that were so beautifully performed.



Opera Delaware is a participant in the Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative (DRJC) Fusion Alliance program which helps small-to-mid sized groups take a deeper dive into diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). Opera Delaware had been seeking ways to diversify its audience but wanted to move faster than its pace of progress. Friday night's microgala and performance were testaments to the axiom that hard work pays off. Many people of color attended both events, including 25 Delaware State University students, UWDE's VP for Engagement and Programs Tierra Fair, UWDE's Stand By Me director Laura Gendreau and DRJC Director Raina Allen.

Congratulations to Opera Delaware for creating a meaningful and riveting experience for all who had the pleasure to attend. The company will host another production in the fall.

To learn more about Opera Delaware's diversity efforts and to discuss how to bring the opera to underrepresented populations in Delaware, please contact Kerriann Otano at kotano@operade.org .

To learn more about Fusion Alliance and how to take a deeper dive into DEI for your small-to-mid size organization, contact Tierra Fair at tfair@uwde.org



Henry Harper, Tierra Fair, Kenneth Everett and Monica Freeman



State Sen Tizzy Lockman, John Collins, Kerriann Otano, Tierra Fair, Kenneth Everett, and Ivan Thomas

College, Careers and Cash Helps Students Prepare for their Future

Financial education is important to help young people establish smart financial habits early in their lives.

Stand By Me Delaware provides schools a financial empowerment curriculum *College, Careers, & Cash* that helps Delaware students envision and plan for their future.

The goal is to help connect the dots between career pathways, post-secondary education, and lifestyle. To learn more about this program, [visit our website](#).

FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH



Youth Sport Makes Learning About Aerospace Careers Fun

United Way of Delaware and Walnut Street YMCA in Wilmington are partnering with Delaware Drone Soccer League to introduce Drone Soccer, a competitive sport that can lead to sparking interest in careers in aerospace. Drone Soccer uses hand-sized flying quadcopters in protective plastic exoskeletons that are designed for full-contact gameplay and collisions. Students first learn to construct and repair their drones, and then use them in competitive play.

The first Drone Soccer Scrimmage was Saturday April 1 and was a great success.

The young pilots were placed in two teams; the Blue team and Yellow team, and played three matches of full contact drone soccer. Each team used strategy to fly their drones into the goal, while blocking to prevent the other team from scoring.

For more information about Drone Soccer, to watch a demonstration video, or to enroll and join a team, visit <https://dedronesoccer.com>.



Step Up on National Volunteer Month

Volunteers help make life better for our communities! Across our state and in Salem County, NJ, we see people of all ages and backgrounds willing to come together, roll up their sleeves, and do the hard work needed to make our communities safer, healthier, and more equitable.

We need you! Will you join us?

Visit [our website](https://www.volunteer.uwde.org) to search for ways to volunteer.

A promotional graphic for National Volunteer Month. The top half has an orange background with the text "NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH" in large white letters, "APRIL 2023" below it, and the slogan "Volunteers help make life better for our communities! Will you join the fight? #LIVE UNITED" in smaller white text. A red ribbon logo is on the right. The bottom half shows a photo of volunteers in a warehouse or food bank, wearing masks and gloves, packing supplies. The United Way logo and "United Way of Delaware" are in the bottom right corner. The text "Volunteer at volunteer.uwde.org" is overlaid on the photo.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH
APRIL 2023
Volunteers help make life better for our communities!
Will you join the fight? #LIVE UNITED

Volunteer at [volunteer.uwde.org](https://www.volunteer.uwde.org)

United Way
United Way of Delaware

FREE FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

*The Truth About Reading**
The Invisible Crisis Hiding in Plain Sight

Directed by Emmy Award Winner Nick Nanton



Watch the Movie Trailer!

The truth about reading.*

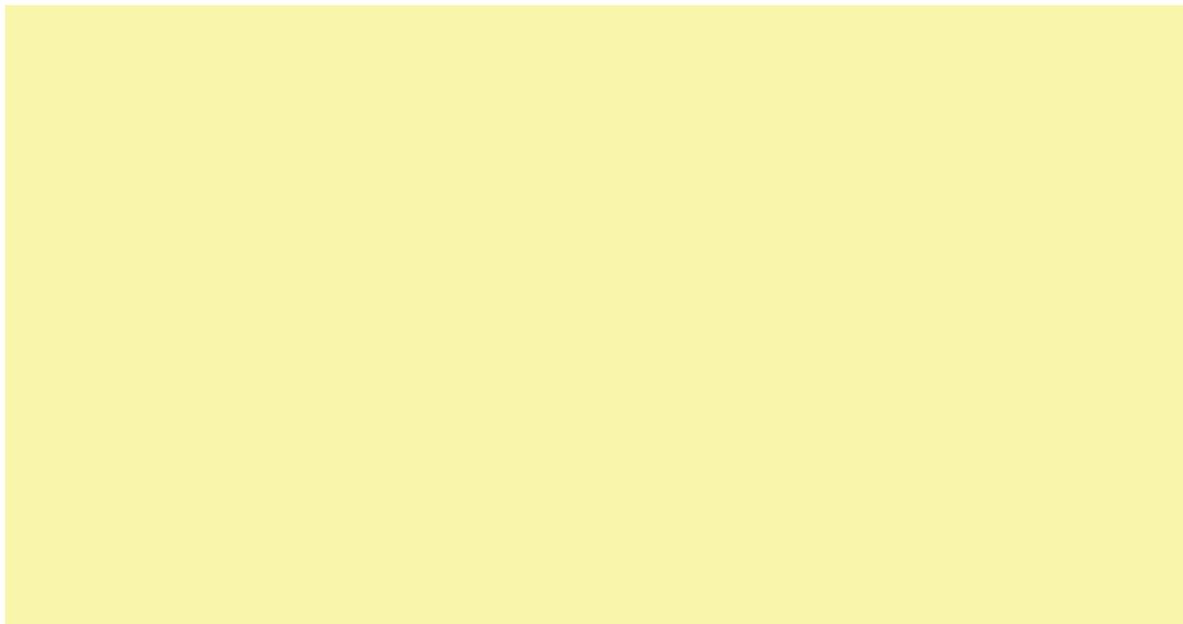
* The Invisible Crisis Hiding in Plain Sight

PRIVATE SCREENING!

Monday April 24th 5:30-7:30pm Georgetown Public Library
Tuesday April 25th 5:00-7:00pm Wilmington Institute Library
Wednesday April 26th 5:30-7:30pm Bear Public Library
Thursday April 27th 5:30-7:30pm Dover Public Library

Monday May 1st 4:00-6:00pm Christiana Care Wilmington Gateway Center
Monday May 15th 4:00 - 6:00pm Carl M. Freeman Office Building

Use the QR code to secure YOUR seat
or visit
www.literacydelaware.org/event/the-truth-about-reading-movie-screening
to register



WE ARE HIRING



21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER SUMMER OF EXPLORATION ACADEMIC & ENRICHMENT PROGRAM: STAFF PAY RATES

BANCROFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND STUBBS EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

JUNE 26, 2023 - AUGUST 17, 2023
STAFF TIME 8:30AM- 3:30PM

CURRENT TEACHERS:

- \$35 PER HOUR

CURRENT INSTRUCTIONAL PARA'S:

- \$22 PER HOUR

SUPPORT STAFF (NAVIGATORS):

- \$25 PER HOUR

**EARLY EDUCATION CERTIFICATION AND/OR SCHOOL-AGED
CERTIFICATION PREFERRED**

6-7 HOURS PER DAY MON-THURS (8 WEEKS)

DAYS OFF - JULY 3, 2023-JULY 7, 2023

SEND YOUR RESUME OR QUESTIONS TO:
KEN LIVINGSTON, 21ST CENTURY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
KLIVINGSTON@UWDE.ORG

AMBER BATTLE-WINSTON, ED.D | SR. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SUCCESS
ABWINSTON@UWDE.ORG



Program Director

Let's Grow Act Win seeks an Experienced, Motivated, Educational Professional Program Director for our After School Program servicing youth from 1st to 12th Grade.

**Part -Time After School Opportunity – MAX 20 Hrs. Week
Monday to Thursday 3:00 PM -6:30 PM :**

**Onsite Programming Hours Fridays would be designated for
Meetings and Weekly Reporting
Start Date: Immediate**

Previous professional experience with working with youth, afterschool program development, implementation, and management is required. Previous experience working with students and families experiencing homelessness is highly preferred. Bachelor's Degree or Higher in Education/or Related Field is required.

Send resume to lgawllc@gmail.com

or call Terri Rayfield at 302-345-0390 for job description.



Support Delaware's Seniors

United Way of Delaware and partners ChristianaCare, Delaware 211, Always Best Care and A Helping Hand are working to support seniors across Delaware.

Throughout April, we will collect financial contributions as well as physical donations of items needed most. Donated items can be dropped off at your nearest senior center.

Help us raise \$1,500 by April 27th so more of Delaware's seniors get the critical resources they need. You can [**donate online here**](#).

Contact Delaware 211 to learn more.

A HELPING HAND PRESENTS

Senior Care Days '23

During the months of March and April, we have a goal to raise \$1,500 to help provide essential items to our neighbors in need.

[UWDE.ORG/EVENTS/SENIOR-CARE-DAY-2023](https://uwde.org/events/senior-care-day-2023)

Mark Your Calendar!

The events below are happening over the next several weeks. Be sure to mark your calendars now to save the dates and times.

“A CONVERSATION WITH PARENTS”

Parents, community members, and educators please join us for the latest event in our series “A Conversation with Parents.” These conversations pertaining to education, health and financial stability for your family, provide a safe space for you to discuss issues with others and share your experiences and life lessons. This session celebrates a continuation of Mental Health Awareness Month.

- **April 18, 2023** – “Be Accountable” – Preparing for self-sufficiency Skills – Organization, self-discipline, and self-regulation. SEL competencies – Self-Management, Responsible Decision Making
- **May 16, 2023** – “Possibilities and Solutions” – Boundaries and consequences Skills – Problem solving, goal setting. SEL competencies – Responsible Decision Making

Location: Route 9 Library & Innovation Center,
3022 New Castle Ave, New Castle, DE

Time: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

There will be a raffle for a \$40 ShopRite gift card at each session. YOU MUST ATTEND TO WIN!

Registration is strongly recommended.
Register at <https://bit.ly/convoparents>



For more information contact: Ken Livingston at klivingston@uwde.org

JOIN US

GRAND OPERA HOUSE

318 N. MARKET STREET
WILMINGTON, DE 19801
Box Office: (302) 652-5577
WWW.THEGRANDWILMINGTON.ORG

SATURDAY - 7:00 PM

APRIL 15
2023

DEBCC

Fundraiser for the Delaware Black Chamber of Commerce - TICKETS \$55, \$45, \$75, + \$8 Service Fee

**CLASSIC R&B
SPECTACULAR**

THE
SPINNERS



SONNY BIVINS
MANHATTANS

KISS & SAY GOODBYE
SHINING STAR
THERE'S NO ME WITHOUT YOU

I'LL BE AROUND
COULD IT BE I'M FALLING IN LOVE
ONE OF A KIND - THEN CAME YOU
WORKING MY WAY BACK TO YOU
GAMES PEOPLE PLAY



LEGENDARY
INTRUDERS

Cowboys to Girls
I'll Always Love My Mama
I Wanna Know Your Name

THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE, WILMINGTON DE

Small Business Owners: Make the Connection

Minority small business owners looking to learn more about selling their goods and

services to area corporations, governments, universities and others are invited to participate in True Access Capital's New Opportunities Procurement Fair on Thursday, April 27 at the Wilmington Library, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The free event will feature more than 25 organizations, including DuPont, JPMorgan Chase, Christiana Care, the University of Delaware, Delaware State University, the State of Delaware, New Castle County, the City of Wilmington and others. Attendees will meet with representatives, learn best practices for working with larger organizations, understand what goods and services these organizations need, and will hear a forecast of future small business opportunities. Learn more [here](#).

THE New Markets Opportunities Procurement Fair

**Thursday, April 27, 2023
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Wilmington Library
10 East Tenth Street
Wilmington, DE**

Morning Keynote Presenters:
Troy and Kim Adams,
Mountain Consulting, Inc.
mountainconsultinginc.net

This event is designed to help small businesses, led by people of color and other historically marginalized groups, learn how to access procurement opportunities with federal, state and local government, and with private corporations.

For questions, contact John Banks at jlbanks@trueaccesscapital.org

Participating Organizations

- APEX Accelerators
- Christiana Care
- Christina School District
- City of Wilmington
- Delaware State University
- Delaware Office of Supplier Diversity
- DuPont
- Eastern Minority Supplier Development Council
- J. P. Morgan Chase
- KOG International
- New Castle County Government
- University of Delaware
- U.S. Small Business Administration

Sponsor
JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

Co-hosts

Keep an eye out, as our list of participants continues to grow!
This is a FREE event, however registration is required.
Register today at <https://bit.ly/3LMfu9w>

True Access CAPITAL

A New Challenge Begins May 20!

TAKE THE CHALLENGE

sign up today.



deraciaequitychallenge.org

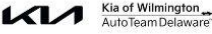


ANYONE WHO GIVES \$150 OR MORE TO UNITED WAY OF DELAWARE WILL BE ENTERED TO WIN A NEW

2023 KIA SELTOS | OR | **\$8,000 CASH**

2 Year Lease

Participants who donates \$150 or more to the *United Way of Delaware* will be entered for a chance to win!

GIVE TODAY



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

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