

Wishing You Blessings On Mother's Day

***"The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom."
Henry Ward Beecher
(Brother of Harriet Beecher Stowe)***

On this Mother's Day weekend, I want to celebrate and thank Mothers – the Biological Moms, Grandmothers, Adoptive Moms, Foster Moms, Aunties and Mother-figures -- who raised, taught, nurtured and protected us in a million unselfish ways.

I want to thank my mother who continues to be my friend and confidant, a source of strength and a life compass. George Washington said, "All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her."



I have to agree with that. There's a saying that children cannot be what they cannot see. In my mother I see compassion, unconditional love, acceptance, encouragement, joy and hope. Thank you, Mom. I love you.

The day will be trying for me, as it's the first Mother's Day since I lost my dear son Vernon Taylor, Jr. I often feel Vern's presence and I miss him every day but on Sunday, his absence on a day we traditionally celebrated, likely will make missing him even more intense.

I've been told that finding the blessing in the pain will help in healing. I appreciate that advice. So, on this Mother's Day, I'll focus on my Mom, one of my life's most cherished blessings.

For people who will be missing mothers who are no longer with you, I hope you have many happy memories and reflections with which to honor your Mom on Mother's Day. I send you my condolences and hope that you, too, can find a blessing in the pain.

I'm fortunate that my life is filled with many friends and family members who are Moms. I hope you are served breakfast in bed with newly-picked flowers from your yard. I hope you'll receive hand-drawn cards from the young ones, and a gift card promising to help with a chore from the older kids. I hope your day will be filled with hugs and kisses. Happy Mother's Day.

Sincerely,

Michelle

Celebrating the Progress of the Statewide Career Pathways System

The **Delaware Pathways Conference** was created to celebrate the progress of the statewide career pathways system. It was designed to explore, feature, and showcase innovations that support career readiness, student identity and equity.

Organized by the Delaware Department of Education CTE Department and United Way of Delaware (UWDE), the conference attracted more than 200 attendees from across the state.

The conference theme was *"Building Equitable Pathways for the Future."* It featured keynote speaker Logan Herring and guest speakers including Delaware Education Secretary Mark Holodick, Dr. Orrin White, UWDE Chief Operating Officer Dan Cruce, and more. Ten workshops covered a range of topics including Diversifying the Educator Workforce, Work Based Learning and Youth Apprenticeship, Advancing Student Equity and Civil Rights in College and Career Readiness, and Supporting Individuals with Diverse Abilities to Participate in Pathways.

The United Way of Delaware team of Ebony Brown and Laurie Girardi presented information on *Success for our Seniors (SOS): A New Collective Impact Initiative to Help Ensure the Successful Transition to Career or College After Graduation for Our High School Seniors*. Speakers and partners included Jon Tucker, Senior Vice President of Operations of Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware; Monterey Luckey of Delaware Workforce Development Board, Wilmington University; Ronike Haynie, Community Development Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Delaware; and Terri Sharpe, Associate Principal of Dover High School, Capital School District.

We would like to thank our sponsors: Rodel Foundation, Delaware Technical Community College, Delaware Department of Education, and United Way of Delaware.

Please [click here](#) to watch a video overview of the day's events.



Photography by Emir Lake Photography. To see more images, [click here](#).

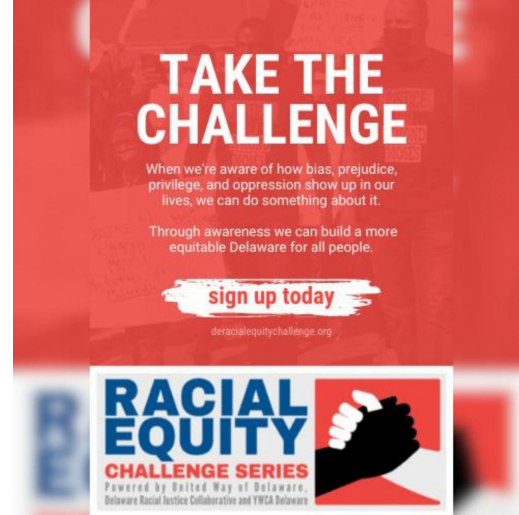
How to Become a Better Ally in the Fight for Racial Equity

The Delaware Racial Equity Challenge is an opportunity for individuals to continue their learning journey towards becoming better allies in the fight for racial equity. The upcoming session spans May 22 to May 26.

This month's topic is *Implicit Bias in Healthcare*. By participating in the challenge, individuals can gain a deeper understanding of how implicit bias affects healthcare outcomes and can learn about strategies to mitigate its impact. The challenge also provides a platform for individuals to engage in meaningful discussions and share experiences with others who are committed to creating a more equitable society.

As allies, we want to continue to educate ourselves and use our power to affect change. The Delaware Racial Equity Challenge is an excellent opportunity to do just that. By signing up for the challenge, individuals can take an important step towards creating a more just and equitable world for all.

Sign up now at deraciaequitychallenge.org and spread the word.



Happy Teacher Appreciation Week

Harlan Elementary School Principal Tracy Roberts sent us this video in response to our **Thank A Teacher Video competition**. She is proud of her school and grateful to the staff. And we're happy to help her tell everyone about it!



Stepping Through Childhood with Shoes That Fit

United Way of Delaware, Stubbs Early Education and Dual Generation Center, and The Bancroft School recently collaborated with **Shoes That Fit**, a nonprofit that tackles one of the most visible signs of childhood poverty: worn-out athletic shoes.

Proper shoes empower children to run free at recess, participate in sports, engage with peers shame-free, get a boost of confidence and experience less stress.

Through this partnership, 78 Wilmington students -- 25 students from Stubbs and 53 students from Bancroft -- received new shoes. We are grateful to Shoes That Fit for this partnership.

Shoes That Fit addresses poverty by giving children new athletic shoes to attend school with dignity. School attendance, self-esteem, and behavior improve. Physical activity increases. Smiles return.



You can give children new shoes and new hope **by donating to Shoes that Fit [here](#).**

Reserve Your Foursome Now!



**JERRY HUNTER
COMMUNITY
CLASSIC**

UWDE.ORG/EVENTS/JERRY-HUNTER-CLASSIC

22 MAY, 2023 | 11:00 AM
1 HARTEFELD DRIVE | AVONDALE, PA 19311

Spread the Word!

The Food Bank of Delaware will hold drive-thru distributions for Delawareans in need throughout the month of May.

The loss of pandemic emergency benefits is significant for many in our community. We hope these distributions will provide relief.



**EMERGENCY
FOOD
IS AVAILABLE!**



**DRIVE-THRU
MOBILE PANTRY**

New Castle County

When: Friday, May 19 starting at 10:00 a.m.

Where: Delaware Park Lot D, 777 Delaware Park Blvd., Wilmington 19804

Register in advance: <https://May19NCCo.eventbrite.com>

Sussex County

When: Monday, May 22 starting at 10:00 a.m.

Where: Crossroad Community Church, 20684 State Forest Road, Georgetown

Register in advance: <https://may22sussex.eventbrite.com>

Kent County

When: Wednesday, May 31 starting at 10:00 a.m.

Where: Dover Motor Speedway, 1131 North Dupont Highway, Dover (enter through Leipsic Road entrance and follow signs)

Register in advance: <https://may31kent.eventbrite.com>

Please bring proof that you live in Delaware! On-site registration is available. Service will be first-come, first-served. Assistance is limited to one per household. The Food Bank of Delaware will serve up to 1,000 households at each pantry. Public restrooms will not be available. Make sure your trunk or backseat is clear for easy loading.

If you are not able to attend the distribution, please visit www.fbd.org/get-help to learn about other ways the Food Bank and our partners can help you!

Pathways Conference In the News

The following is an excerpt of the Delaware Public Media coverage of the Pathways Conference. To read the entire article and listen to the discussion, click [here](#).

Assessing Delaware Pathways work to prep high school students for college and future careers

By Larry Nagengast

Building a program from ground zero to participation by 71 percent of the state's middle and high school students in less than eight years is cause for celebration, but attendees at the annual Delaware Pathways conference learned that there's still much more to do.

More than 47,000 students are now enrolled in Pathways programs, taking classes designed to lead them into potentially rewarding career fields, state Secretary of Education Mark Holodick said as he opened the half-day conference at the University of Delaware. The April 21 event drew more than 200 attendees, primarily educators and leaders in businesses and nonprofit organizations affiliated with Pathways.

Student participation will continue to grow, Holodick said, in part because of the state's \$1 million investment in pilot programs that will start this fall at the middle school level. Those programs aim to give students an earlier start in thinking about careers and what they will need to study in high school to attain their long-term goals.

Pathways is a collaborative effort among the education, government and business sectors to offer a curriculum that spans middle and high school to help ensure students become productive employees in growth professions after graduation. Delaware schools offer more than 20 pathways in areas like business and finance, health sciences, education, engineering and technology, hospitality and agriculture. Available pathways vary from school to school, but all offer students paid on-the-job training and the opportunity to earn college credits or professional certifications before they graduate from high school....

Dan Cruce, chief operating officer of United Way of Delaware, another Pathways partner, said he believes Pathways is working toward creating a model that opens fresh opportunities for all students, especially those that have historically been overlooked and underrepresented. Achieving that goal, however, will require crossing a generational bridge. "Our youth are dynamic individuals different from most of the

adults that are planning for their future,” he said.

“We’re all navigating on a journey toward our success,” said Jon Wickert, director of career and technical education at the Department of Education. “We have to empower students to navigate that journey. It has to be meaningful to them.”

NEWS FROM THE LATINO COMMUNITY



Día de las Madres
14 de mayo de 2023

Les desea UWDE Latinos Unidos ERG



Having Trouble Making Payments? Mortgage Help is Available

DELaware's MORTGAGE RELIEF PROGRAM



**DON'T WAIT!
SAVE YOUR HOME TODAY**

Are you at risk of displacement due to unpaid housing-related obligations such as mortgage payments and property charges? The Delaware Mortgage Relief Program can help.

What Does The Program Cover?

- Delinquent housing-related expenses, such as:
 - Mortgage payments
 - Property tax
 - Water and sewer utilities
 - HOA or condo association fees
 - Homeowner insurance payments, etc.



Eligibility Requirements:

- The homeowner, borrower, or spouse must have experienced a pandemic-related financial hardship that occurred after January 21, 2020, such as lost income or increased expenses
- Household income at or below 150% Area Median Income (AMI)
- Own and occupy their home in Delaware as their primary residence

For more information or to apply, please visit www.delmortgagehelp.com or call (888) 333-4326.

PROGRAMA DE ALIVIO HIPOTECARIO DE DELAWARE



NO ESPERE!

El Programa de Alivio Hipotecario de Delaware, financiado por la Ley del Plan de Recaudación Tributaria del Estado y el Fondo de Asistencia para Propietarios de Vivienda, proporcionará hasta ochenta días de financiación a los propietarios elegibles que pasaron dificultades financieras relacionadas con COVID-19 que resultaron en pagos retrasados o impunidad hipotecaria.

Los prestatarios elegibles deben cumplir con las siguientes requisitos:

- Residentes de Delaware que poseen y ocupan su hogar en Delaware como su residencia principal
- Ingreso igual o inferior al 150 % del ingreso medio del área (AMI) por sus hogares en inglés o al 150 % del ingreso medio de los hogares Unidos, el que sea mayor (encuentro su AMI aquí)
- Dificultades financieras después del 21 de enero de 2020, como reducción de ingresos o aumento de gastos
- Los propietarios de viviendas elegibles sin pagos de hipoteca atrasados, ahora pueden solicitar asistencia para el pago de la hipoteca en el futuro



Para obtener actualizaciones sobre el Programa de ayuda hipotecaria de Delaware, se recomienda a los habitantes de Delaware que visiten www.delmortgagehelp.com o llame al (888) 333-4326.

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Help Stamp Out Hunger TOMORROW!

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive



United Way of Delaware



NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
OF LETTER
CARRIERS

The Stamp Out Hunger Donor Drive is a drive with a single mission—to feed the hungry in America, and as always, with your help, we will!

Learn more how you can help:

<https://www.nalc.org/community-service/food-drive/2022-donor-drive>



Stamp Out Hunger on May 13 is a national one-day food drive that has raised more than 1.75 billion pounds of food over 30 years. This year, we are hoping to raise more than 100,000 pounds of food in New Castle County and Milford, DE. Letter carriers will pick up bags of food left by residents along their routes.

We need volunteers for **Stamp Out Hunger** on May 13 at Edgemoor and Marshallton post office locations. To sign up, [click here](#).

In partnership with the NALC, UFCW, AFL-CIO and United Way, Stamp Out Hunger is the nation's largest food drive, providing non-perishable food items to local food banks in all 50 states.

You're invited! Strategic Planning Session Delaware Literacy Alliance



SAVE THE DATE

THE DELAWARE LITERACY ALLIANCE
A DELAWARE COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE
STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Join us for lunch and a discussion on the state of literacy in Delaware. Based on a full-scale landscape analysis, we are bringing together community leaders, educators, and other stakeholders to discuss our findings and collaborate on effective strategies to improve literacy rates for Delaware residents. Your voices are important to us! This discussion will contribute to the development of a comprehensive statewide plan to improve literacy outcomes. Help us map the path forward for a more literate Delaware by joining us for this important event.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31
9 AM - 1 PM
MODERN MATURITY CENTER
1121 FORREST AVE, DOVER, DE 19904

REGISTER NOW



“A CONVERSATION WITH PARENTS”

Parents, Community Members and Educators

Please join us for the last event in our series “A Conversation with Parents.” Pertaining to education, health and financial stability for your family, these conversations 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.

May 16, 2023

“Possibilities and Solutions.”

Topics include:

- Boundaries and consequences
- Problem solving, goal setting.
- Responsible Decision Making

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

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

**A \$40 ShopRite gift card will be raffled at the 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



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

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