

Focusing on Youth is Key to Workforce Development

For the past several weeks, we've looked at summer programming initiatives that support the first of United Way of Delaware's four key focus areas: *Early Education Success*. Today, we're going to graduate to the second pillar, *Career and College Success*.

That takes us back to school. Schools are designed to provide meaningful education that will prepare kids to build the life they desire. Whether students choose a career or higher education, they need a solid education footing as they begin their next phase. But only about half of Delaware's high school students are performing at grade level in English and only one in three are proficient in Math.



We are proud to work with the school districts in their ceaseless efforts to provide a continuum of supports and services to help students excel. To complement that work, *Stand By Me NexGen* is a course that helps students imagine their futures and identify ways to get there, and builds financial literacy in teens. We'll tell you more about NexGen in an article below.

Focusing on youth is key to workforce development. Employers say that candidates aren't prepared for the work; colleges say that incoming students need remediation on skills they should have learned in high school. Well-paying jobs in high-growth industries such as healthcare, information technology and engineering are demanding ever-higher skill levels.

Meeting the needs of tomorrow's workplace starts today -- in summer programs, in schools, in equitable workplaces and in our hearts.

Sincerely,

Michelle

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

Today's Youth - Tomorrow's Workforce

By Laurie Girardi

*Investing in the development of youth
is investing in the prosperity of our world.*
- Malala Yousafzai

Today's youth are tomorrow's workforce. It's our job as adults to help ensure that all youth are on a clear path to a thriving job with a livable wage and job mobility. *Talent is distributed equally, but opportunities and access are not* – and we imagine a future Delaware where zip code and race have no bearing on one's access to livable, steady wages; access to benefits; or opportunities for career advancement. ***Together with our partners, we are working to make our vision a reality.***

Did you know that in Delaware 13.1 percent of all youth ages 16-24 are disconnected from school or work? And, for black youth, that number skyrockets to 22% of all youth in the same age group.

Announcing GUIDES

UWDE was awarded a grant from the Delaware Department of Education for a pilot program that aims to provide students in middle school with dedicated GUIDES (or mentors) whose role is to help foster self-efficacy, explore career interests, and connect out-of-school time opportunities and experiences to students' interests and aspirations.

This fall, GUIDES will be embedded in four middle schools – two in Wilmington and two in Dover -- under the leadership of Erin Brenner, UWDE Senior Director, Student Success, with support from Laurie Girardi, Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer.

We are thrilled that our trusted partners **Network Connect** and **First State Community Action Agency** are locking arms with us to implement this program together. In the coming months, we'll share more about our GUIDES, our partners, and the impact they're making every day.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

NexGen College Funding Project Spreads the Word About Financial Aid

By Sally Coonin
Director, Stand By Me NexGen

The College Funding Project will begin its 9th year serving students and their families in all of Delaware's 44 public/charter high schools to help receive financial aid for college. Stand by Me NexGen works in school groups and in personal Zoom appointments to help families complete FAFSA.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can be an intimidating form to complete, but very necessary for college and trade school-bound seniors who are looking for federal financial aid in the form of Pell Grants, Federal Work Study, institutional grants and loans.

[READ MORE](#)

College, Careers and Cash Go Hand-in-Hand

Stand By Me: NexGen's **College, Careers, and Cash** program offers financial literacy for high school students in 9th and 10th grade. These custom-designed curricula consist of interactive and engaging classroom workshops to help students understand the connection between making good career and financial decisions and being successful, independent adults.



Lessons integrate financial literacy into existing school curricula to build an understanding of how much money is needed to support the student's expressed lifestyle goals and career preferences. From these discussions, students recognize that post-secondary education – whether career training, technical training, community college or a 4-year program – often will be necessary to put them on the path to their dreams.

[READ MORE](#)




1,000 Bookbags for 1,000 Delaware Students


Back-to-school should be a time of excitement and anticipation, but for many families in Delaware, it is a time of financial stress and worry. Every year, the cost of school supplies rises, leaving families with an enormous burden to shoulder. This year, it's estimated that families will spend between \$200 to \$300 per child on school supplies. Without these critical items, our children's success in the classroom and confidence are in jeopardy.

United Way of Delaware's **3rd Annual Bookbag Giveaway and Resource Fair** helps to lift this burden for local families by providing bookbags and essential school supplies for students.

Help us reach our goal of 1,000 bookbags for 1,000 students by **making a donation** or purchasing items directly from our **Amazon Wishlist**. Thank you for supporting our 2023 Bookbag Giveaway!

ANNOUNCEMENTS





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Delaware

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**AmeriHealth Caritas Delaware
Community Wellness Center**

Glendale Plaza Shopping Center
1142 Pulaski Highway, Unit 6-A
Bear, DE 19701

amerihealthcaritasde.com

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WELLNESS
CENTER**


PLEASE JOIN US!


Date:
August 15, 2023

Time:
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Classes offered at no cost to you.

To confirm this activity is still taking place, please call the Wellness Center at **302-525-3760** or email us at acdmemberengagement@amerihealthcaritasde.com.

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Utilice el enlace para registrarse y participar en un grupo de enfoque pagado para compartir sus pensamientos sobre el asunto.

El grupo focal para emprendimientos tendrá lugar el 3 de agosto de 2023 de 12:00 a 1:30 P.M.

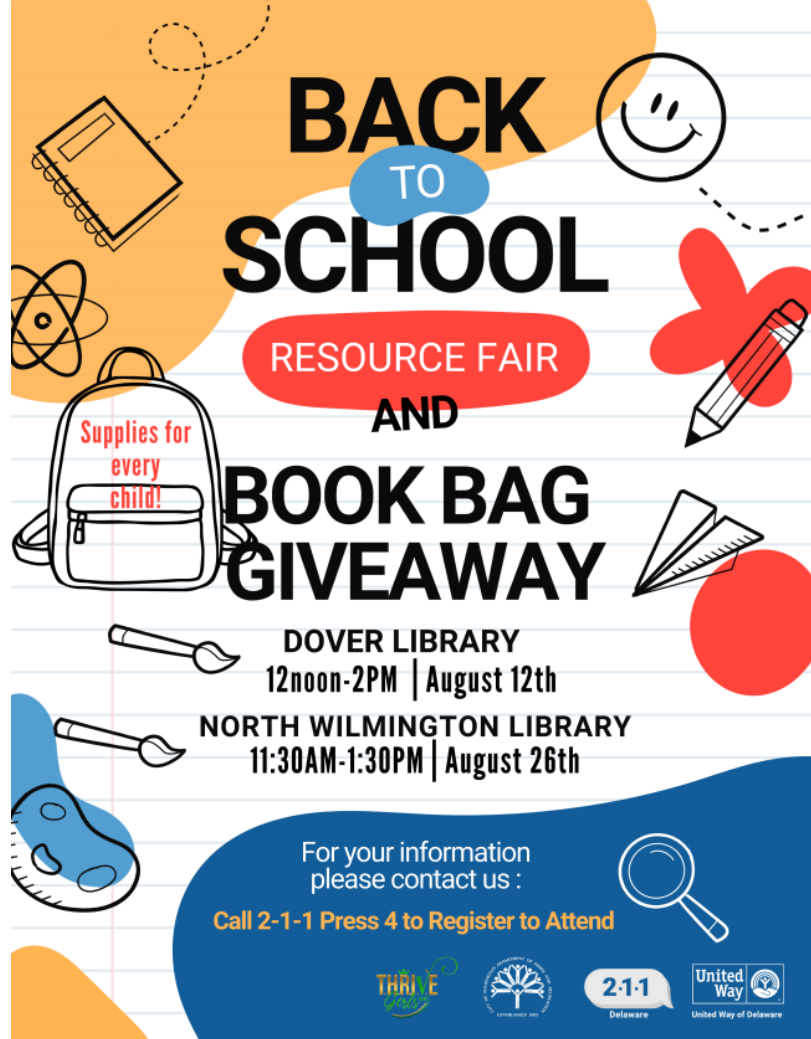


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ANTES DEL 31 DE
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If you would like to support our efforts to help build a better Delaware, please donate to United Way of Delaware [here](#). You can make a one-time donation or a recurring monthly contribution. When you give to the United Way of Delaware you're joining individuals and organizations who are working together to improve life for everyone in Delaware and Salem County (NJ). We appreciate your support.



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