



# Gateway Community Action Partnership

May 2014

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## Agency Mission and CAP Promise

The agency's mission is to provide services that improve the quality of life and promote self-sufficiency.

CAP Promise: Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

## Greetings!

The name Gateway Community Action Partnership reflects our expanded coverage area, but more importantly, it signifies what we are all about. We are a gateway to success for individuals and families in our community and we achieve those results through actions done in partnership within that very community we serve. So please take a minute to read our newsletter and learn more about our successes and struggles as we serve a Gateway to Community Action in Partnership with others for everyone's benefit!

## Literacy Volunteers of Salem And Cumberland Counties Names Tutor And Volunteer Of Year At Appreciation Event

## Contact Information

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Judy Hunt, Laura Stanton and Tammy Bitgood.

PITTSGROVE - Gateway Community Action Partnership's Literacy Volunteers of Salem and Cumberland Counties recognized Judy Hunt, from Vineland, as the 2014 Tutor of the Year and Tammy Bitgood, from Upper Pittsgrove, as the 2014 Volunteer of the Year at a Tutor Appreciation Night on May 7.

"Gateway appreciates the dedication and hard work of Judy and Tammy," said Albert B. Kelly, Gateway's President and CEO. "Our mission is to provide services that improve the quality of life and promote self-sufficiency. By helping people improve their literacy skills and learn English, as Judy and Tammy have done, they play a huge role in advancing our mission. On behalf of Gateway, I thank them for volunteering their time to help others."

Hunt, a retired pediatrician, is valuable for the quality of her tutoring and the quantity of her work. Hunt often tutors two or three learners at a time while providing GED instruction to Cumberland County jail inmates. Obtaining a GED can dramatically improve inmates' employment and educational opportunities upon release.

"It is truly rewarding to see the difference you can make in someone's life," Hunt said when presented with the award at the appreciation event at the Pittsgrove Senior Center.

Laura Stanton, the program director, said: "Judy not only possesses a willingness to help, but she also has a strong determination to do things the right way. She is a program director's dream because she does her job consistently and consistently does it well. Her learners are very lucky to have her and so are we."

Bitgood, who teaches Spanish at Woodstown High School, has made a tremendous impact in the year she has been in the program. There is a need for quality ESL instruction in the region, and Bitgood has worked

with Stanton in developing a popular and effective class that teaches English to the Spanish-speaking population.

Generous, innovative, creative and committed are just some of the words Stanton uses to describe Bitgood as a person and a teacher. The learners must agree, because they attend faithfully and are now bringing their friends.

"This is a wonderful program," Bitgood said when presented her award. "I am so proud to be a part of it."

Said Stanton: "I can't say enough to express how grateful I am for all Tammy has contributed to this program and I am very proud to honor her with this award."

The Literacy Volunteers of Salem and Cumberland Counties received the New Jersey "Affiliate of the Year" award in 2011 and 2013. Stanton also thanked other tutors and volunteers at the event for their contributions to the program's success. The event also included a workshop on financial literacy.

Gateway's literacy program is funded in part by Atlantic City Electric, the Danellie Foundation, South Jersey Industries, Comcast and Century Savings Bank. For more information about Gateway's literacy program, call Stanton at 856-497-6645.

**Vineland PAL Spreads Joy At Spring Gardens Senior Housing With Pool Table Donation**



Diana Gonzalez, Spring Gardens Senior Property Manager, watches as residents Bernardino Santiago (center) and Rogelio Lopez play the first game on the new table.

VINELAND - Bernardino Santiago doesn't mind a challenge when playing pool, but the level of difficulty on the table in the community room at Spring Gardens Senior Housing was getting to be a bit too much.

At both ends of the table, strips of duct tape holding down what was left of the felt lay between the ball and the corner pockets. It often turned a game of pool into a

trip through an obstacle course.

The pool table had served the residents of Spring Gardens well over the years, but clearly it was time for a change.

"I think that pool table was older than me," said Santiago, 74, a Spring Gardens resident.

Vineland Police Officer Albert Vargas, the Vineland Police Athletic League Director, took notice of the condition of the old pool table one day while visiting Spring Gardens. The Vineland PAL, moving to a new location, had a pretty nice, gently-used pool table that wasn't going to fit in at the new center. So he asked Diana Gonzalez, the Spring Gardens Senior Property Manager, if she would be interested in it.

It took her less than a second to say yes. Some of the residents really like playing pool, and that makes Gonzalez happy. She is all for anything that falls in line with Gateway Community Action Partnership's mission to "provide services that improve the quality of life and promote self-sufficiency." The new pool table was definitely going to be something to improve the quality of life at the center.

"This will encourage and motivate the residents to get on their feet and exercise and socialize with the other residents," Gonzalez said. "It will bring a lot of joy to the seniors at Spring Gardens."

But there was one problem: how to get it there. The table was almost 10 feet long, more than five feet wide and, with a slate surface, about as heavy as the offensive line of the Philadelphia Eagles.

Thankfully, Gary Peart and a couple of his relatives jumped in. Peart, who owns P.D.R. Emergency Services, LLC, a professional moving service, donated his time and resources to get the table from the old Vineland PAL in downtown Vineland to Spring Gardens on Spring Road.

It took Peart, his crew, and Spring Gardens maintenance personnel Bill Seidel and Max Belony a couple of hours and a lot of muscle to complete the job.

"Any time I see that people need help, and I can help, I do that," Peart said. "I feel like I've been blessed, so why not help someone else. I want to give something back if I can."

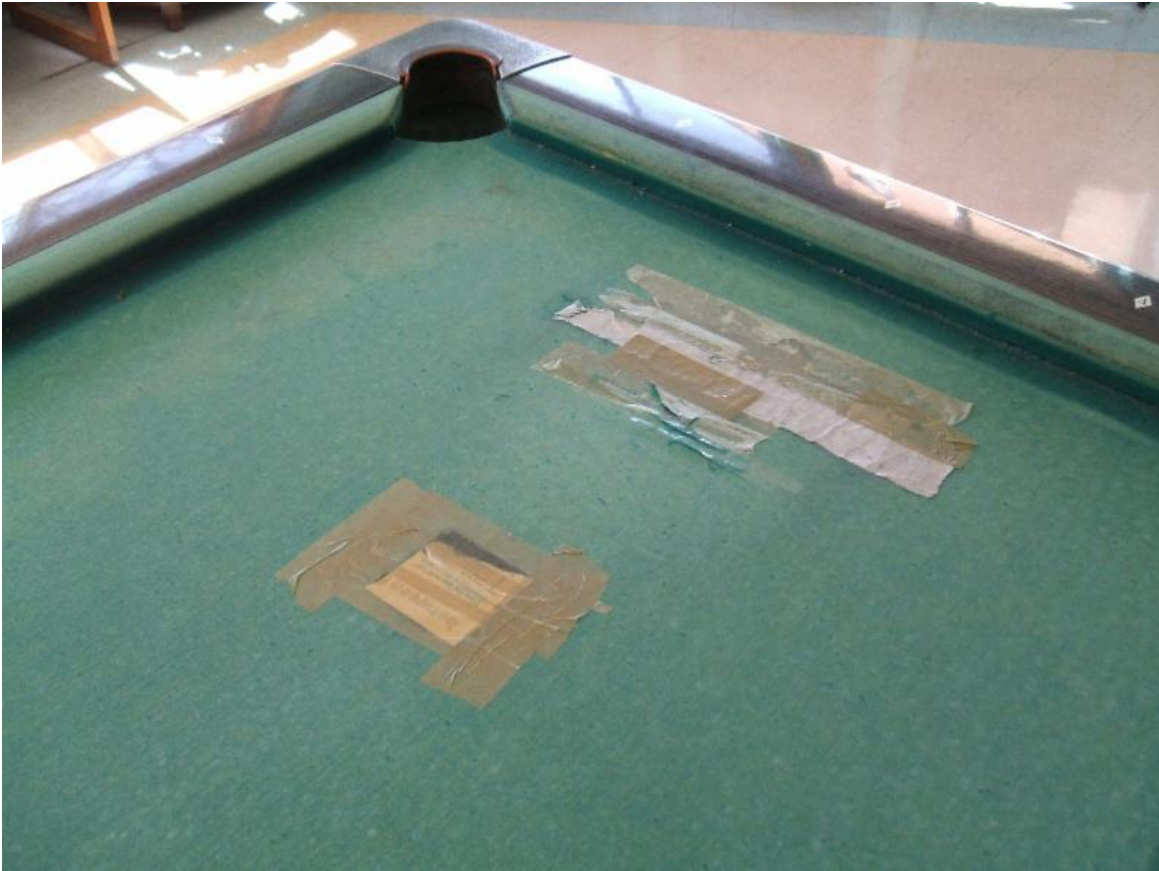
Within minutes of the delivery, Santiago and a few of his resident friends were knocking balls into the corner and side pockets. The community room pool players were thrilled with the smooth felt and a roll that was true.

Vargas was happy to see the pool table get a new home, and the smiling faces of the residents gathered around it.

"Vineland PAL feels really good about doing something for the seniors," Vargas said. "That's what we are here for: to serve the community."

Albert B. Kelly, Gateway's President and CEO, appreciated the generosity of the Vineland PAL and P.D.R. Emergency Services, LLC and the resourcefulness of Gonzalez.

"It will bring a lot of joy to our seniors and enhance the sociable atmosphere of the community room at Spring Gardens," Kelly said. "We are grateful to everyone who played a part in making this happen."



The condition of the old pool table presented some unwanted challenges.

#### **Gateway Will Hold 15th Annual Community Day On May 16 At River's Edge Campus**

Gateway Community Action Partnership will hold its 15th annual Community Day and Outreach Festival from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday, May 16 on the River's Edge Community Campus, 110 Cohansey St., Bridgeton.

The event, sponsored by Gateway in conjunction with Complete Care, Inc., is free and open to the public and includes a day of family fun and valuable information.

There will be games and activities, including face painting for children and giveaways and prizes for all ages as well as live music and entertainment will highlight the day. Prizes will be raffled throughout the event.

In addition to packing plenty of fun, Community Day will feature valuable information on health and social service issues and resources from area service providers and health vendors in addition to job opportunities and to provide information on family and senior health issues.

For additional information on the event, call 856-451-6330 ext. 6601.

#### **Gateway CAP Helping To Fulfill Homeownership Dream With Mill Creek Crossings Program**

Gateway Community Action Partnership's Mill Creek Crossings program is working hard to make the American Dream of homeownership a reality for area residents.

Mill Creek Crossings homes are being built on South Avenue and Eagle Street in Bridgeton and all units include three bedrooms, 1.5 baths, living room, dining room, kitchen, appliances and central air. Starting price is \$77,500 and first-time homebuyers with an income of at least \$30,000 (must have at least one dependent) are eligible.

Construction will begin this fall and applications are now available. Applications

are available at Gateway's administrative offices, 110 Cohansey St., Bridgeton.

Pre-requisites for Mill Creek Crossings home ownership include: attend first-time home buyers classes, have a permanent income, qualify for a mortgage, a credit score of at least 650 and some money in savings. Applicants must meet HUD guidelines and be approved by the NJ Housing Affordability Service.

For additional information, call 856-451-6330 ext. 6742.

### **Gateway's Women, Infants And Children (WIC) Has Celebrations Planned For August**

Gateway's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program will hold its second annual "Camden Celebration of World Breastfeeding Month" on August 9 in Camden. WIC will have information and activities for all ages, as well as coordination with a group that provides back to school services for youth in Camden.

Gateway WIC will also hold its second annual "World Breastfeeding Month Celebration" at the Vineland U\_Sell Flea Market on August 10. WIC will have information and activities for all ages.

For both events, WIC is seeking volunteers and donations of new baby items, gift certificates and other prizes, as well as gently used children's books for distribution. Please call 856-497-6732 for more information.

Gateway WIC is now on Facebook, with a page dedicated to breastfeeding and nutrition. You can like the pages and send us ideas for posts on the breastfeeding page. Please be sure to like us here: <https://www.facebook.com/gateway2nutrition>

### **A Warm Welcome To Gateway Community Action Partnership's Newest Employees**

Welcome to the Gateway CAP April 2014 new hires!

Christina Campbell, Cheryl Chadwick Early Learning Center  
Rhameir Edwards, Cheryl Chadwick Early Learning Center  
Rakeem Pruitt, Cheryl Chadwick Early Learning Center  
Krystle Vera, Cheryl Chadwick Early Learning Center  
Zoraida Hernandez, WIC  
Michael Sharp, WIC  
Nashira Jackson, Head Start  
Janessa Marchese, Head Start  
Edwin Rosado, Head Start  
Tierra Stewart, Head Start  
Uben De Diaz, Mercer Head Start  
Cristopher Rosado, Atlantic-Cape Head Start  
Courtney Gordon, Atlantic-Cape Head Start  
Ruth Ortiz, Atlantic-Cape Head Start  
Stephanie Foxworth-Harrell, Atlantic-Cape Head Start  
Samantha Santiago, Atlantic-Cape Head Start  
Natalia Uribe, Atlantic-Cape Head Start

### **Around Gateway Community Action Partnership ... News and Notes**



Staff, children and parents had a good time with Cat In The Hat and Dr. Seuss activities at the Landisville Head Start center in March. Matt Mattei, parent to Isabella Mattei, played the part of the Cat in the Hat. Thing 2 is Leon Winter. Staff and parents read to the children.

Gateway's **Hamilton I Head Start Center**, 169 Wilfred Ave., Hamilton, will hold a **Multi-Cultural Parade on Friday, May 16** beginning at 9:30 a.m. More than 200 people, center children and their families are expected to participate in the event, which will begin at the J.O. Wilson Neighborhood Center, home to the Hamilton I Head Start Center. The parade will celebrate the cultural diversity of the children in the center and countries represented include: United States, Haiti, Jordan, Guatemala, Egypt, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Pakistan, Dominican Republic, Ukraine, Vietnam, Jamaica, Bangladesh, El Salvador, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Mexico and Puerto Rico. For additional event information, call **609-393-5655**. ... Gateway's Salem Family Success Center, 14 New Market St., Salem, is planning "**A Night To Remember**". And they hope you can help make the night memorable. The Salem Family Success Center, in conjunction with SODAT and the Family Enrichment Network (FEN), will hold a **family prom event on Friday, June 6 from 4 to 8 p.m.** at the Salem YMCA on Virginia Avenue/Shell Road (U.S. Route 130) in Penns Grove.

The event is free and all Salem County families are invited to attend. Registration deadline is May 19.

The Family Success Center is hoping you can help make the event memorable by donating dress attire for adults and children. The FSC is accepting donations of new or gently used men's suits, shirts, ties and shoes, women's gowns, shoes and accessories and children's dress attire is also being accepted. Donations can be dropped off at the center Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and



Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays. Prom attendees can stop by the center during the same business hours to try on and pick out attire for the event.

For additional information on the family prom, making donations or the Family Success Center, call 856-935-0944 or e-mail Kristen Caban at [kcaban@gatewaycap.org](mailto:kcaban@gatewaycap.org). ... Gateway's **Individual Development Account (IDA) program** is conducting sign-ups for a program that offers matched savings for income eligible participants. The program offers participants the opportunity to save money and have those savings matched dollar for dollar and enhance a participant's capability of saving for their future. For example, if a participant saves \$4,500 during the 36-month period, takes part in personal finance and money management sessions and is saving for home ownership, post secondary education or small business startup, that \$4,500 will be matched by the program. By saving \$4,500, the participant would have \$9,000 in overall savings at the end of year. Participants must make a \$10 minimum weekly deposit for one year and attend eight economic literacy classes.

Current or former Work First NJ or TANF recipients are now eligible to participate and having a minor child is no longer a program requirement.

Prospective Gateway IDA Program participants will learn about the importance of saving, money management, budgeting and financial decision making, debt management, taxes, banking services, basic financial planning and insurance as well as learn about first-time home buyers programs, down payment assistance, scholarships, entrepreneur training, credit repair and dealing with realtors.

**For additional information contact Demetrica Todd-Hunter at 856-451-6330 ext. 6742 or [dtodddhunter@gatewaycap.org](mailto:dtodddhunter@gatewaycap.org).** ... The **Salem Family Success Center**

at 14 New Market Street in Salem is requesting donations of gently-worn, freshly-laundered, wearable clothing in all sizes for men, women, and children. Center staff is also collecting linens, towels, shoes, sandals, hats, belts, and costume jewelry for its clothes closet, which is open Monday through Friday. Call **856-935-0944** for more information on donations, the clothes closet, or to coordinate pickup of donated items. ... Gateway operates the **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC) in Camden, Cape May, Cumberland and Salem counties.**

The program provides supplemental foods, nutrition education, lactation support, immunization education and health care referrals to income-eligible pregnant women, new mothers, infants and children up to age 5. Gateway WIC serves more than 23,000 clients annually through flexible hours through its eight (8) offices and a full-service, health screening mobile office. WIC is an equal opportunity program. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap, write immediately to: USDA, Director-Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC, 20250 - 9410. For additional information on the Gateway WIC program or nearest office location and hours of operation, call the Gateway WIC program at 856-451-5600 or 856-225-5050. ... Gateway's

**Alzheimer's and Senior Adult Day Care program** continues to provide quality, affordable care for Cumberland County residents at its Spring Gardens Senior Housing facility, 1781 S. Spring Rd., Vineland. The program operates from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday to provide a meaningful adult day care program as well as provide respite care for families of Alzheimer's patients. Meals and snacks are provided and daily activities include arts, crafts, low-impact, guided exercise sessions and socialization. The program also includes monthly parties for participants. A suggested daily donation of \$20 is requested, but no one will be denied services due to inability or unwillingness to pay. The program is funded, in part, by the Cumberland County Office on Aging and the United Way of Greater Cumberland County. For additional information or to register for the program, contact Sandra Collins at 856-690-0411. ... The **Gateway Loan Program**, which is a helping hand fund to assist low-income clients in Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties facing short-term financial difficulties, is seeking participants. Gateway Loan arranges small loans for income-eligible families who may be unable to obtain a traditional bank loan. Loans range from \$250 to \$500 and are repayable within six months. ... Gateway's Head Start program is once again sponsoring the **Child Care Food Program**. This program is designed to provide meals to children receiving services in Head Start centers located throughout Atlantic, Cape May, Mercer, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties. Meals are available at no separate charge to all children 12 and under enrolled in the Child Care Food Program and are served without regard to race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex.



[Gateway Community Action Partnership Website](#)

Sincerely,

Michael Cudemo  
Gateway Community Action Partnership

[Forward email](#)



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