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May 2021 Newsletter

Hello Gene,

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!

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.

Gateway Co-sponsors Summer Dance For COVID-19 Vaccinated Seniors On July 1

A beloved Bridgeton tradition is returning! The Senior Dance for Bridgeton seniors is back on with a limited number of tickets available for fully vaccinated residents.

Set to take place Thursday, July 1 beginning at 6 pm at the Everett P. Marino Ballroom at 11 Washington Street in Bridgeton, the spring dance will feature music, entertainment, food, and a lot of dancing.

Co-sponsored by the City of Bridgeton, CompleteCare Health Network, and Gateway Community Action Partnership, the event is for residents of the Greater Bridgeton area, 60 years of age and older.

Tickets are \$3 and must be purchased in advance. Tickets will not be available for purchase at the door.

Bridgeton Mayor Albert B. Kelly, also President and CEO of Gateway Community Action Partnership, has hosted the popular senior event for many years as a way to honor seniors for their many contributions, while also providing an evening of fun and fellowship. "This event is so popular with our seniors and it was truly missed last year when we were forced to cancel due to the pandemic," Kelly said. "We're delighted to bring it back again." He said reserving the limited number of tickets available this year for those who have received a COVID-19 vaccination both ensures a safe and fun event and encourages everyone to vaccinate.

Everyone 12 or older who lives, works, or studies in New Jersey is now eligible for a free COVID-19 vaccine and appointments are available locally.

CompleteCare is conducting a COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic every Wednesday at 70 Cohansey Street, Bridgeton, NJ 08302 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Seniors can register by calling (856) 451-4700 ext. 2015 during normal operating hours or sign up via this link:

<https://www.completecarenjvaccineportal.org>

COVID-19 vaccinations are also available locally at the Rite Aid stores at 52 East Broad Street, Bridgeton, NJ, and 1000 N Pearl St, Bridgeton, NJ. Go to

<https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/covid-qualifier> or call 1-800-748-3243 for an appointment.

For vaccine availability at ShopRite Pharmacy, 1000 N Pearl St, Bridgeton, NJ, visit

<https://shoprite.reportsonline.com/shopritesched1/program/Imm/Patient/Advisory>

Those interested in finding out more about the July 1 Senior Dance or to purchase tickets can call the Office of the Mayor at (856) 455-3230 Ext 200.

Honoring the Memory Of Former Gateway Board Member And CATA Executive Director, Nelson Carrasquillo

It is with great sadness and heaviness in our hearts that we share with all of you the passing of CATA's long time Executive Director, Nelson Carrasquillo on May 8, 2021.

Nelson was the Executive Director of CATA from 1991 - 2016, and served on the board at Gateway Community Action Partnership from 2011 - 2015. He was brought to CATA in 1991 by colleagues in Puerto Rico who had been involved in

the founding of CATA. CATA was formed as a Puerto Rican organization, but Nelson steadfastly believed that the organization would only be able to build true power in the farmworker community by building leadership and solidarity among all farmworkers.



Prior to working at CATA, Nelson lived and worked on his beloved isla, Puerto Rico, with PRISA – The National Ecumenical Movement of Puerto Rico, organizing fisherman and coastal communities.

Under Nelson's leadership, CATA grew and flourished. Workers in Kennett Square, PA formed the first independent mushroom workers' union and farmworkers won a pivotal "Right to Know" legislation in New Jersey. During his tenure, CATA worked to influence an understanding of organic agriculture that includes the recognition of workers' rights with the creation of the Agricultural Justice Project, won important gains in health and safety under the Worker Protection Standard, prioritized building the leadership of the farmworker community with the establishment of the Farmworker Health and Safety Institute, and began the road to building food sovereignty in our community with the establishment of the first community gardens for the Latino immigrant community in our area.

Nelson believed strongly in the importance of solidarity and of working together across communities and building alliances. In his 25 years at CATA, he was instrumental in the creation of many alliances including the Food Chain Workers Alliance, the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, the Domestic Fair Trade Association, and Building Equity and Alignment for Environmental Justice, among others.

Nelson will be remembered with great fondness by all – even those he was known to argue and disagree with. He will be remembered as a leader, a philosopher, a friend, a teacher, a mentor, and a poet. He will be remembered for his deep belief in community leadership, his love of storytelling, his great passion for Mother Earth and a good camping trip and his strong loyalty and friendship.

If you would like to send cards to his children: Edil, Amaru, Pito, Tamara and Tania - you can send them to the CATA office and we will forward them on. The address is CATA, P.O. Box 510, Glassboro, NJ 08028.

Nelson's daughter Edil shared a short message for CATA friends and allies:

To all of you in CATA and friends,

I am so proud of my Dad, his legacy includes his work, his passion, his leadership, his friendship and his eternal support. My life adventures always carry the unlimited knowledge he so willingly provided. I am thankful for him, mi Papi. I want to say thank you to all of his CATA family, the farmworkers he worked with and each person who knew him for giving him purpose.

Los Quiero Mucho.

We are grateful for the path that Nelson walked, the way he made in this world and grateful to have known and shared some of that path with him.

Content provided by CATA

Tomatoes Are Ripe And Ready For Harvest At Mill Creek Urban Farm



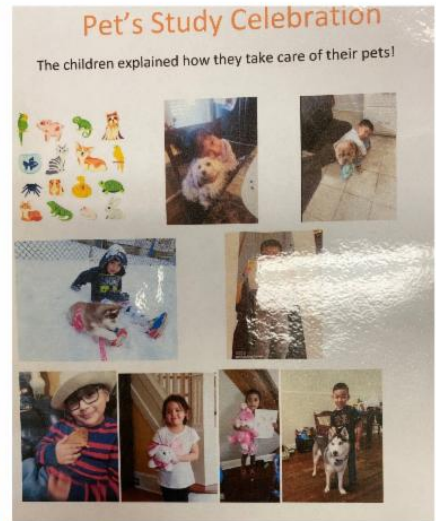
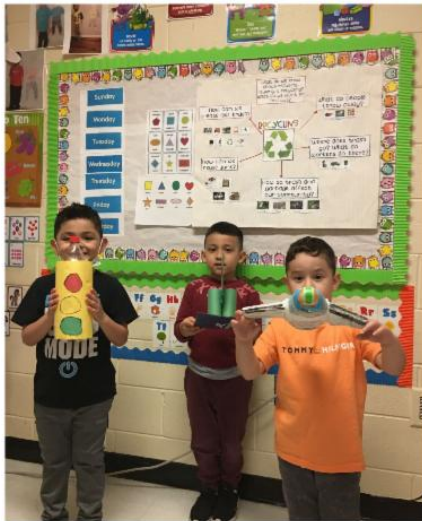
Marcus Weaver, Gateway's Director of Agriculture and Food Initiatives, displays some tomatoes from Gateway's Mill Creek Urban Farm. The Mill Creek Urban Farm, a community farm on the site of a former housing project on Mill Street in Bridgeton, was created in 2009 to generate a sustainable source of food and promote community building.

Head Start Education Outreach Worker Mary Platt Celebrates 30 Years Of Service At Gateway



Head Start Education Outreach Worker (EOW), Mary Platt celebrated 30 years of service at Gateway on April 29! Thank you for your hard work and dedication, Ms. Mary!

Hamilton 1 Head Start Children Study Pets, Recycling And Sports Through Hands-On Learning



During the month of April, children at Hamilton 1 Head Start studied the importance of recycling, caring for pets, and the different kinds of sports balls. After each study, the children celebrated both virtually and in person with crafts and activities to apply what they had learned.

Twin Rivers Head Start Learns About Caring For The Planet With Earth Day Activities



Children at the Twin Rivers Head Start learned about taking care of the planet for Earth Day by planting seeds and creating artwork with recycled items in the classroom and at their homes as a family project.

As part of the End of the school year, the children participated in different outdoor activities involving music, movement, and arts and crafts.

Lastly, they enjoyed a dance party in their classroom along with the children participating virtually before receiving their end of the year certificates!

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Welcome To Gateway CAP's New Hires!

Citlali Denisse Lopez Marroquin, Urban Farm Assistant

Aliyah Perry, Gateway Scholars

Katoya Mccoy, Home Visitor

Zyesha Wright, EHS Group Teacher

Gateway Community Action Partnership

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