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# Gateway Community Action Partnership

March 2020

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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

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!

## Gateway Sets New Hours In Response To COVID-19

For the safety of our children, families and employees during the continuing COVID-19 (coronavirus) situation, Gateway Community Action Partnership offices, outreach centers and facilities will be closed on Mondays and Fridays beginning Friday, March 20 with employees working from home to abide by social distancing protocols on those days.

Gateway offices, outreach centers and facilities will be open during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to provide services while operating with reduced staffing to comply with required crowd sizes limits of less than 50 people in one site.

This schedule will remain in effect until the agency is notified by state and federal officials that it is safe and prudent to resume the normal, five-day work week.

Gateway will notify colleagues, constituents, clients and community members when the return to the normal work schedule is deemed appropriate.

Gateway's services open during the mid-week include Social Services, Weatherization and Literacy Volunteers. Administrative services will be available on-site as well.

people help themselves and each other.

### Contact Information

Rivers Edge Campus  
(Headquarters)  
110 Cohansey Street  
Bridgeton, NJ  
08302

(856) 451-6330

Gateway Women, Infants & Children (WIC) staff will work Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and provide phone certifications, per State WIC office directive.

Gateway Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem will be open on Tuesdays (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Wednesdays (1 to 6 p.m.) and Thursdays (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). Our Vineland Outreach Office will be closed.

Gateway Family Success Centers in Bridgeton, Millville and Salem will likewise, be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Gateway's Spring Gardens Senior Housing will maintain limited visitation requirements. The Alzheimer's & Adult Day Care Program will be closed to outside clients and remain closed until the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted at the state and federal levels.

Gateway's Head Start/Early Head Start Program closed all centers effective Tuesday, March 17. Centers will be closed for a period of two weeks, through Tuesday, March 31.

Head Start administrative and family support services will be available to families during this time period. Head Start staff will check in with families on a regular basis during the closure.

If additional information is needed, please contact Gateway's administrative offices at 856-451-6330. For additional Head Start information, contact Vice President Bonnie Eggenburg, CCAP, at 856-453-0803.

In addition, Gateway postponed its Gateway Golf Classic to August 31, postponed all 2020 Census events and cancelled its College Tour 2020.

### 2020 Is The Year Of The Census! Please Participate!



The United States Census 2020 affects every one of us, from the distribution of \$675 billion in federal funds to plans for future government services. We need you to complete the Census 2020 questionnaire. We are all in this together. Help us get a Complete Count.



## **Message From Albert B. Kelly, President and CEO of Gateway**

**Albert B. Kelly Awarded Outstanding Citizen Of The Year**



**Albert B. Kelly, Gateway's President and CEO and Mayor of Bridgeton, was honored as Outstanding Citizen of the Year by the Bridgeton Lions Club on March 5.**

### **Jinnea Terrell Is Living Gateway's Mission Of Improving Lives, Promoting Self-Sufficiency**

We all would like to be the best parent(s) we can be to our children. That feeling really hits you once you have them. When I gave birth to my two sons Zyon and Amari (who are 2 years apart) I had that innate feeling to be the best mom I could be. I knew it was going to be tough after splitting from their dad and going through a bad break up. I always questioned myself "Could I still be a good parent and give my children the best life in a single parent home?" That worried me for so long. When they were babies, I did go through the welfare

program and utilized every assistance that the government offered to help me to get where I needed to be. I was left alone to raise these two boys by myself and I just did not know how I was going to do it.

One day I was in a pizzeria and I saw a flyer for the Head Start program. I knew I wanted to go back to school and work, so I needed a school for my boys. I eventually enrolled my sons in the Head Start program. My youngest son faced some tough developmental milestones and he did not speak until he was 3 ½ years of age. He was enrolled in the Head Start program at age 3 and was receiving school services as well. I believe these two programs, early intervention, and myself really help stimulate his speech (now he is full talk and laughter he is such a jokester).

Both of my kids went through the program and completed successfully. My family advocate saw strengths in me. I was always questioning the boys' development. I kept pondering what else I could do to help them grow and be the best they could be. My family advocate (Danelle Ransome) invited me to the parent meetings and eventually I was nominated for policy council, where I served as secretary, vice president, and president. Head Start helped me with making sure I knew how to raise my kids. This included proper discipline, health, dental health, social and emotional development and academics. I also served on Gateway's Board of Directors. They showed me how to be a leader and an advocate for my children so much, so I have attended every IEP meeting my child has had and created some suggestions and advocated for him. I have made every single parent teacher conference for both boys. I ended up being Vice President of the PTO in our school district. Even though my children completed the Head Start program, I still stayed with Head Start and served because I knew I had something to offer and I knew they had something to offer to me. I was eager and open to being a good parent and not let my challenges define me.

Over the years of me serving I was able to go back to school and complete my degrees. I was working at a behavioral facility that was closing so I decided to apply for a position here with Head Start right after I completed my master's degree in Human Service with counseling focus. I got the position and moved up to another position. I love helping and motivating my family advocates and parents. I love making people smile and laugh.

I could not have done this without people encouraging and supporting me. The family advocate, some managers, Head Start Vice President Bonnie Eggenburg, and Mr. Edward Bethea, Gateway's Executive Vice President and COO, have constantly supported me and encouraged me and now I get to support and encourage hundreds of families and staff I supervise and offer them hope through my story. Bonnie has always allowed me to be exposed to conferences, workshops, and seminars that would develop me better as a parent and person. She always keeps her door open whenever I have a question or need guidance.

I have had many obstacles in my life that could have completely knocked me down, like having cancer that I beat. I thank God for his direction. Fast forward to now I am a year into my PhD program in Psychology with an emphasis on Organizational/Industrial Development, graduation is in 2022. I am not on any government assistance programs and I have been able to be more self-sufficient. My children are now 13 and soon to be 11. They are doing really good in school. I am so proud of them and their academics. They are both athletes they play fall football and travel spring football, and they wrestle. Life has not been easy by far but Head Start and some of the people there helped me set the tone and fulfill the direction I wanted to go in and my children and they will always be a big part of my story and my success. Gateway Head Start truly works if you allow it to!!!





**Jinnea Terrell with her family then and now. Jinnea is living Gateway's mission "to provide services that improve the quality of life and promote self-sufficiency."**

#### Head Start Children Continue To Learn From Home As Staff Create Learning Packets





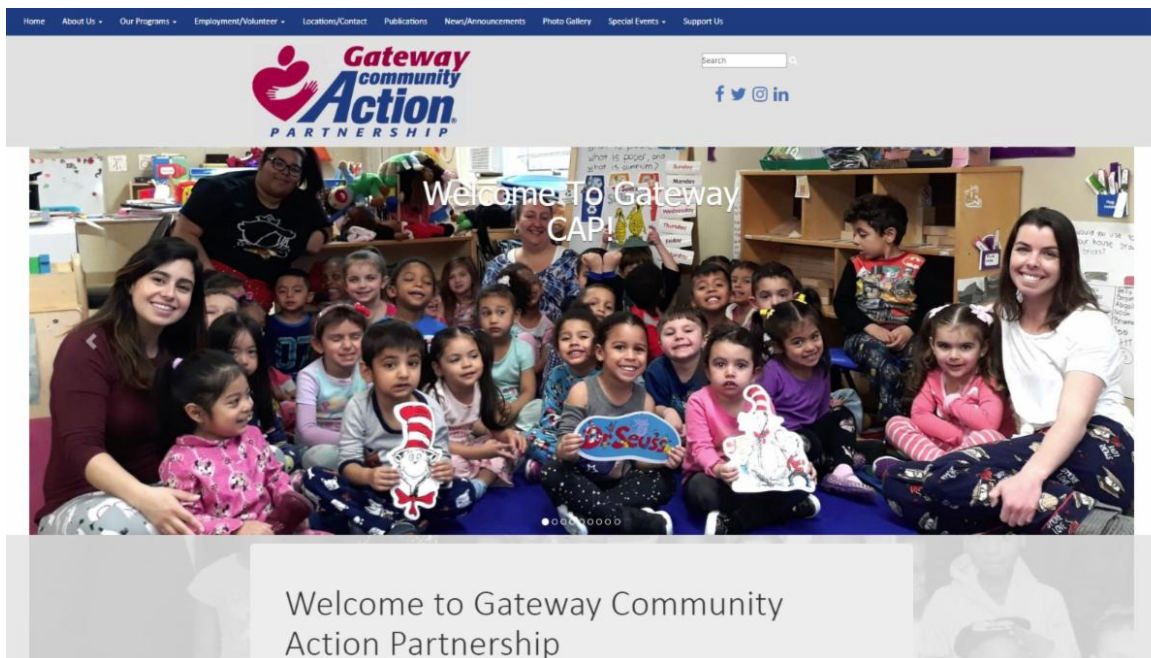
**Little Cherubs staff creating packets for children to continue learning from home.**

**Head Start children continue their education from home with their parents through fun and challenging learning activities provided by Head Start staff. Pictured above are children from Ewing Head Start, and the below from Hamilton Head Start.**



## Gateway Launches New And Improved Website To Better Serve Community





Gateway Community Action Partnership's new and improved website is now accessible at [www.gatewaycap.org](http://www.gatewaycap.org). The new site has some new features, a new look and an improved mobile version that allows users a better experience when visiting the site from a smartphone or tablet.

Among the changes:

Home Page - features an agency-wide calendar, live social media and news feeds, and promos for the Census and Gateway Golf Classic.

About Us - Features a new Board of Directors page with photos of the board officers and a new Executive Leadership page with photos of agency staff.

Programs - Revised program-specific pages, many with new photos, videos, graphics, and embedded direct email forms where clients can request additional information right from the page. New pages are now available for the **County Councils for Young Children** and **Gateway's Male Initiative Program**. The **Family Success Centers** page now features three separate event calendars and direct email for to each center coordinator. The **Greater Bridgeton Area Transit** page features a new video and interactive route map.

[Click Here To Check Out Our New Website!](#)

Swedesboro Head Start Building Study



**Children at Swedesboro Head Start studied building and construction. They worked alongside Head Start staff to "create something out of nothing" and build a model house. Under adult supervision, the children were taught how to use basic tools and took part in constructing their very own miniature house.**

Hammonton Head Start Safety Procedures





**Children at Hammonton Head Start learned about the importance of safety during a visit from a local law enforcement officer.**

#### Twin Rivers Head Start Dr. Seuss Week



**Twin Rivers Head Start celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by participating in fun activities for Seuss Week inspired by *The Cat in the Hat*, *Fox in Socks*, *Green Eggs and Ham*, and *The Lorax*.**





**The children sported crazy socks, tall hats, and Lorax masks while kicking off the week with their "Crazy Day Parade."**

Holly City Family Success Center's Sabrina Simpkins Honored As Outstanding Citizen



**Holly City Family Success Center's (of Millville) Sabrina Simpkins was Honored as Outstanding Citizen at the March 11 Luncheon at New Jersey Motorsports Park. Sabrina is with Albert B. Kelly, Gateway's President and CEO.**

Head Start Distributing Food During COVID-19 Crisis





**Head Start is continuing food distribution for EHS/HS children during the COVID-19 crisis on a weekly basis. Five meals are provided to each child per week. Vendors are boxing the meals while Head Start assists in distribution. Pictured above, Head start staff prepare to bring food to the Williamstown community. Below, Twin Rivers Head Start staff members are shown unpacking boxes and preparing bags for distribution.**



#### Easy Access For Greater Bridgeton Area Transit Information

**Bus service for the Greater Bridgeton Area Transit runs 6 a.m. - 6 p.m., M-F and from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Saturday. This service is open for all residents over the age of 8 (8-17 must be accompanied by parent/guardian) for any transportation related need!**  
**For more information, call (856) 696-5660 x3001**

**[Click Here For Greater Bridgeton Area Transit Information](#)**





**Check Out Video For More  
Information On GBAT!**

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

### **Welcome To Gateway CAP's New Hires!**

**Marlene Urban, Administrative**  
**Tanya Thomas, Operations**  
**Diana Sandoval, SE Gateway**  
**Angela Hatzantonis, WIC**  
**Samantha Ivanic, Head Start**  
**Ashanti Myricks, Head Start**  
**Iscah Amir, Head Start**  
**Salma Vega-Caluff, Head Start**  
**Ruth Rivera, Head Start**  
**Fatiha Nabaoui, Head Start**  
**Ashleie Gordy, Head Start**  
**Atika Louni, Early Head Start- Child Care Partnership**  
**Marian Shehata, Head Start**

### **Support Gateway CAP By Shopping At AmazonSmile**

You can support Gateway's mission "to provide services that improve the quality of life and promote self-sufficiency" while shopping at Amazon's "AmazonSmile" during this holiday season or any time of year. Please click on the link below the next time you shop. More information about the program follows the link. Thank you.

**[Click Here To Donate To Gateway Through AmazonSmile!](#)**

### **About AmazonSmile**

#### **What is AmazonSmile?**

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Gateway Community Action Partnership every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Gateway.

#### **How do I shop at AmazonSmile?**

To shop at AmazonSmile simply click on the link above or go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

#### **Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?**

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

**Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?**

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

A round Gateway Community Action Partnership ... News And Notes

**Internet Essentials**, a program offered by **Comcast**, gives income-eligible families **access to the Internet for \$9.95 a month** with no activation fee, equipment fees or price increases. Having the Internet enables children to do homework, type reports or do research and enables the parents to e-mail teachers as well as look for jobs, pay bills or find doctors. Gateway Community Action Partnership is working with Comcast to inform families of the program. To be eligible, low-income applicants need to show they are participating in one or more of a dozen different federal assistance programs, including Medicaid, SNAP, and SSI. They must reside in a Comcast service area and must not have subscribed to Comcast Internet in the last 90 days or have overdue Comcast bills. Also, low-cost computers are being offered for \$149.99 and free training is accessible if needed. To get more information or to sign up, visit [www.internetessentials.com](http://www.internetessentials.com) or call 1-855-846-8376. ... Gateway operates the **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC)** in Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Atlantic 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 **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](http://Gateway Community Action Partnership Website)

Sincerely,

Michael Cudemo  
Gateway Community Action Partnership