

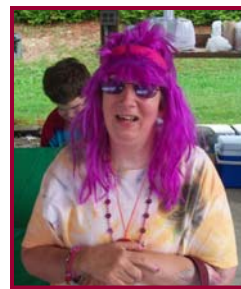
VTDC Bulletin

Our Capabilities...Expanding Your Opportunities...

Venango
Training
&
Development
Center



THE ANNUAL PICNIC



A little rain didn't stop anyone from having a good time at our Annual Picnic.

This year's picnic was held June 24th at Morrison Park here in Seneca which included everyone from Venango and Clarion County. The theme was "The 60's" and some came ready to celebrate. The day started off with donut's from Clark's, which never disappoints. Then it was off to the races with dancing, dunking and a bubble table. The music was provided by DJ Ryan Wenner. He did such a

great job keeping everyone entertained, you may see him back at the Halloween and Christmas parties. A big thank you goes out to Bobbi from Clarion Life Skills for braving the cooler temperatures and rain to be the volunteer "dunkee" at the dunking booth. Lunch was prepared by the Lion's Club. Everyone was treated to a hamburger, hotdog and homemade french fries. If you were waiting in line for a plate you may have also been serenaded by a member of the Lion's Club.

After lunch, everyone continued to dance the day away!

Everyone was given a peace symbol necklace to remember this year's picnic which was enjoyed by all. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's picnic such a success! We can't wait to see what DuBois has in store for their picnic which will be in July. Don't forget the pictures!



Submitted by: Kathy Welch, Program Specialist

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July Staff Birthdays

July 2nd—Mary Kush, Program Director-Seneca
 July 5th—Brenda Zimmerman, Venango Life Skills Coach
 July 8th—Rhea Jones, Accountant II, Fiscal Department

July Staff Anniversaries

13 years
 Dennis Peden
 COO

5 years
 Jessica Carnahan
 WIA Youth Coordinator

9 years
 Stacy Grigsby
 Assistant Program
 Director, Seneca

4 years
 John Kurtich
 Fairweather Lodge
 Program Director

6 years
 Suzanne Coder
 Program Director
 DuBois

1 year
 Amanda Bish
 Crossing Bridges

June Calendar Winners

DATE	LOTTO	NAME	SELLER	\$ WON
06/01/10	975	Karen Boyle	Shawn McGranaghan	10
06/02/10	778	Tim Farrell	Jackie Wilson	10
06/03/10	875	Jim Annett	Joan Jones	10
06/04/10	094	Not Sold		
06/05/10	781	Mareeta Durney	Donna King	10
06/06/10	729	Bonnie Kaye	Kerri Bruce	10
06/07/10	878	Len Meneely	Colleen Stuart	10
06/08/10	197	Not Sold		
06/09/10	690	Bill Sundo	Dixie Knight	10
06/10/10	385	Not Sold		
06/11/10	160	Lloyd DeArment	Dixie Knight	10
06/12/10	035	Chona Kennedy	Coya Lam	10
06/13/10	828	Mark Baughman	Jacki Fike	10
06/14/10	086	Barr's Insurance	Denny Peden	10
06/15/10	391	Deb Heckathorne	Jess O'Neil	10
06/16/10	648	Megan Dodd	Jan Dodd	10
06/17/10	211	Judy Reinard	Kerri Bruce	10
06/18/10	354	Deb O'Neil	Linda McGranaghan	10
06/19/10	920	Ken Datko	Richard Neiswonger	50
06/20/10	923	Patty Collins	Juanet Shefchunas	10
06/21/10	385	Not Sold		
06/22/10	120	Rosemary Chill	Michael J. Freeman	10
06/23/10	056	Kathy Guth	Dixie Knight	10
06/24/10	055	Shana Schake	Richard Neiswonger	10
06/25/10	521	Lee Shoffstall	Dixie Knight	10
06/26/10	699	Betty Bunker	CJ Packaging	10
06/27/10	173	Not Sold		
6/28/10	181	Not Sold		
06/29/10	595	Byham's Insurance	Denny Peden	10
06/30/10	939	Not Sold		

New to the VTDC Family

May 31st
 Jennifer Gregory—Venango Life Skills

June 6th
 Laura Bean—Venango Life Skills

June 27th
 Tara Bell—Seneca Production Center



In the truest sense,
 freedom cannot be
 bestowed; it must be
 achieved.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Thank Heaven For Little Girls...



Darla Jean Hartzell

**Born: June 7, 2011
at 6:17pm**

**Weight: 8 lbs. 11 oz.
Length: 20 in.**

**Proud parents:
Michael and Lisa Hartzell
Proud Grandparents:
JJ and Mary Kush
(Mary is a Program Director in Seneca)**

Gabriella Mae Oliver

**Born: June 13, 2011
at 6:42 am**

**Weight: 6lbs. 6oz.
Length: 18in. Long**

**Proud Parents:
Melissa Ruediger
& Lucas Oliver**

(Melissa is the Program Specialist at Venango Life Skills)



CONGRATULATIONS

TO ALL!



VTDC FUNDRAISERS

2011 Annual Golf Scramble
Wednesday, August 24th, 2011
10:00am Shotgun Start

ENTRY FEE INCLUDES:

- 18 HOLES OF GOLF
- GOLF CART
- BEVERAGES
- LUNCH
- DINNER
- DOOR PRIZES
- HOLE PRIZES

Call Denny at 814.676.5755 to sign up today!

Upcoming Fundraisers:

- Friday Luncheons at Seneca Production Center:
 - July 1st—Hot Dog, Chips, Sherbet & Pop
 - July 15th—Goulash, Fruit & Pop
 - July 29th—Walking Tacos, Applesauce & Pop

- C/J Packaging & Distribution Fundraiser:

The Sheetz Coupon Books are still available. If you would like to purchase a booklet please call Kaylee at 375-7061. They are also available in Seneca. Please see Stephanie to get your sheetz coupon book!

"MAKE CANCER WALK THE PLANK"



The 2011 Relay For Life theme was "Make Cancer walk the Plank" and was held on June 3rd and 4th at the Oil City High School. The staff from VTDC that made up **Team Big Cheese** this year were Linda McGranaghan, Juanet Shefchunas, Brian Shefchunas, Dorothy Staub, Michael Carothers, Jaclyn Fike, Stephanie Simmons, Rhea Jones, Angie Banner and Kerri Bruce. We raised \$1665.78 this year, with a five year running total of \$18,965.64.



We are so proud to have **Colleen Stuart** and **John Kurtich** as **Survivors** on our team. Even though another Relay has passed, we will continue to sell candles and candy bars to get a jump on next year's goal of \$3,000. Thank you to all who supported us this year. A special thank you to Michael Freeman for being our pizza delivery guy again this year.



**FUTURE
TEAM BIG
CHEESE
MEMBER**



Submitted by: Kerri Bruce, CFO & Team Big Cheese Members

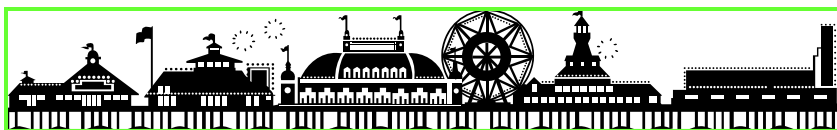


Out of School Trip 2011



This year, 38 youth attended the Out of School Trip. The trip was all day at Kennywood Amusement Park in Pittsburgh. The group arrived around 11am. Each youth received a water bottle, lunch, spending money, a t-shirt as well as a catered dinner at the park. Everyone had an amazing time as usual. The group departed around 9:30pm. This year with additional funding we were able to partner with Project Search students to attend the much deserved trip. All youth are currently out of school, just graduated or received their GED and completed a service successfully for the year.

Congratulations to all youth who attended!



Submitted by: Juanet Shefchunas, Assistant Program Director



*Shawn and Kara
Know how to deal with*

STRESS!



CAREER CAMP 2011



This year VTDC partnered up with Titusville YMCA for our annual Career Camp. Camp was held the weeks of 06-13/06-16 and 06-20/06/23 from 9am until 3:30 pm each day. There was an average of 55-60 youth in attendance each day. All youth were split into 4 teams and each day groups worked on a service project in town such as replacing bulbs in the Christmas displays, polishing historical plaques in town, painting curbs, painting benches and picnic tables as well as weeding and mulching places such as Burgess Park and Roberts Grove. Each day staff did icebreakers and teambuilding activities with them and youth worked on their presentation projects which referenced how STEM was used in each project and how they affected the community. There were various presenters on a few of the days as well including motivational speakers and area colleges. The last day we celebrated their accomplishments with a banquet, presentations and awards. Camp was a great experience for all and a wonderful collaboration with the Titusville YMCA and their youth. Congratulations to everyone!

CAREER CAMP MAKES THE FRONT PAGE!**THE DERRICK.**

© OIL CITY, PA. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2011 (800) 352-1002 www.thederrick.com \$1.00

Youth facing life barriers do service projects in camp

▶ Young people from Venango, Clarion, Forest, Crawford and Warren counties have been sprucing up Titusville.

By **KRISTI CUMMINS**

Kristi.Cummins.TheDerrick@gmail.com
Staff Writer

The annual Workforce Investment Act career camp ends Thursday and this year students participated in community service projects throughout Titusville.

Organized by Venango Training and Development Center, the WIA serves Venango, Forest, Clarion, Crawford and Warren counties and works with youth between the ages of 14-21.

Youth who attend the camp, which started the week of June 13 at the Titusville YMCA, must have some sort of barrier in their life hindering them from achieving their goals.

According to Jaelyn Fike, Venango County youth coordinator, each morning the students participate in an ice-breaker. They then head out into the Titusville community for their service projects, including mulching in parks, painting curbs, painting park benches and more.

The service projects were done at Robert's Grove Park, Titusville YMCA, Burgess Park, Opportunity Park and St. James Place.

Fike said in addition to giving back to the community, a sense of camaraderie developed between the young people.

"We've seen a huge blending of counties," Fike said. "You see them mix together and they see that there are other kids out there experiencing the same things."

See **CAMP**, Page 5



Rachel and Todd work on their map of Titusville, outlining where they and their fellow students participated in community service projects as part of the Venango Training and Development Center's Workforce Investment Act career camp.

▶ Camp

Continued from Page 1

In the afternoons, the kids either participate in a team-building activity or hear a speaker, including a drug and alcohol presentation and a visit from Erie Immigration Youth.

The two-week camp wraps up Thursday, when the students will each give presentations to a panel of judges on what they learned throughout the camp and how it all incorporated science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, an initiative the government is implementing in schools.

Some girls were working on their presentation about photosynthesis in relation to the science aspect of the planting they did in Titusville.

Others were making a map of Titusville and were planning on marking the various areas where service projects were

done and how they related to STEM, including using rulers when painting and screwdrivers for other projects.

Many of the kids agreed they had learned a lot over the past two weeks.

"They're learning how to be a good person and give back," said Kara Crowley, youth coordinator for VTDC.



Olivia and Libby show off the flower they made for their presentation on photosynthesis they will give Thursday to a panel of judges. The girls and many other students participated in community service projects throughout Titusville for a career camp.

SUMMER IS IN FULL SWING AT... THE COVE



day was celebrated at DQ, but nothing topped National Pink Day. One consumer decorated her cheeks, nose and so on and danced about singing she was a clown. It brought everyone out of their shells for a good laugh. Although the ceramic trip was

momentum back into attendance at the Cove. On the last Sunday of the month, there was a summer picnic with family members



included at Parker Dam. There was lots of good food, friends, fun and comradeship. What more could you ask for?

The month may have ended with a bang but with the current increase on the upswing, July too should be greeted with a bang, and not only from fireworks! Have a great summer.

Submitted by: Shirley Christian

The month of June... well known for graduations, parties, picnics and summer fun breezed in with a welcome greeting at the Cove. Summer was finally here and in full swing!

There were several car shows, several very fun National Days (Donut, Ice Cream, Ice Cream Soda and even Pink Day!). The Ice Cream day brought a lot of laughs as everyone who came got a very small 'baby cone' to enjoy. It wasn't much better than a ketchup cup at McDonalds but stuffed full with 2 scoops of chocolaty goodness! Soda

cancelled due to funding, there was a good State College trip to Goodwill for great bargains. There was also a Book Swap day, trip to Altoona, and our usual Birthday Celebration.

While we didn't as yet get to work on the spoon making, we did spend the time gathering materials and tools needed so we can be ready for the next scheduled day.

Our Art Classes where shifted a bit during the month we did have quite a few and all were very enjoyable.

Painting classes seem the most popular at the moment.

The Cove's hours dropped somewhat during the beginning of the month, but they made a good resurgence on the 20th when we had Girls Spa night. Over 30 attended! It was a great success and brought some



From every mountain side, Let Freedom ring.

~Samuel F. Smith, "America"

FAIRWEATHER LODGE NEWS....

This past month, the Grandview Lodge has interviewed a prospective member and a final decision will come soon. If accepted there will be three ladies there and four folks at the Cranberry home.....A local group has proposed to do a community service project at the Grandview home. They are planning to cut/trim the grass, prune shrubs, clean around the outside of the house, and paint the porches, deck, fence and entry doors. What a improvement this would make at the house.Also, a Grandview member has taken a full-time temporary manufacturing job at a local plant and she hopes to have an opportunity to become a permanent employee there.... Our lone man of the lodge continues to volunteer his time to cut and trim the grass at both lodges. His positive attitude makes him a pleasure to be around.



Submitted by: John Kurtich, Fairweather Lodge Director

Good Bye Morning Haus....

On both a sad and happy note, on June 30th VTDC said good bye to Morning Haus. Sad because Morning Haus has been part of our organization for the past 25 years. Happy because, through empowerment and support they have become strong enough to start their own non-profit the P.O.I.N.T.E. On a personnel note, I have been working with many of the members for 21 years and have watched them grow, get married, start families and many times just laugh or cry through times of joy or crisis. They became a part of my life. I will miss that closeness, but I know they will do well. We wish them the best and VTDC will always be there for them in the background to support their success if they need us.



Submitted by: Colleen Stuart, CEO

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

THE OBSTACLE IN OUR PATH

In ancient times, a king had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the king for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the big stone out of the way. Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. On approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. As the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the king indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many others never understand. Every obstacle presents an opportunity to Improve one's condition.



- Author Unknown

C/J PACKAGING NEWS...



The CJ Packaging picnic will be held on **Friday, July 8th**. This year's theme is "**The Carnival**". Our secretary Kaylee has put her heart and soul into this year's picnic and for that we **THANK HER** !!!! Watch for pictures in next month's newsletter.

CJ Packaging continues to work on Sylvania light bulbs, they are stacked floor to ceiling at our facility. Sooo... there is no lack of work. The trainees continue to learn new skills as well as improving their packing times. The staff are so proud of all the trainees' hard work and dedication to doing

"Whatever It Takes to Make It Happen".



Submitted by: Suzanne Coder, Program Director

VTDC Takes the Lead in Preparing Youth for “Life After School”

by Susanna Giesey—Grant Writer and Compliance Officer

Since 2004, Intermediate Unit #6 has served as the lead administrative agency for “Life After School;” this year, VTDC will assume this role. The first LAS event was held at IU6 in partnership with the Mentor Parent Program to connect, students, parents, and teachers with resources and information to assist students with disabilities in making a smooth transition to ‘life after school.’ Since then, LAS has grown into a mainstay event for schools in 17 School Districts. In 2010, LAS drew more than 540 students and adults, and required more than 50 presenters. In January, IU#6 passed the torch to VTDC confident that the VTDC team would ensure the program’s continued success. As a Workforce Investment Title I Youth Provider with programs in 17 School Districts, more than 230 partners, and over 38 years of experience serving disabled youth and adults, VTDC gladly accepted. LAS is open to students within the 17 school districts in IU6, which includes districts in Clarion, Crawford, Forest, Jefferson, and Venango Counties.

Life After School (LAS) is a first-of-its-kind event for high school juniors and seniors that brings schools and communities together to help ensure that all students have a smooth transition to post-secondary opportunities. While LAS is open to all students, it was created with students with disabilities in mind, which includes any student with an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Students with an IEP include students who receive autistic support, blind-visually impaired support, deaf and hard of hearing support, emotional support, learning support, life skills support, multiple disabilities support, physical support, and/or speech and language support. According to the IU6, over 4,700 children ages 5-19 were receiving Special Education services in 2009-2010, and over 1,800 (38%) were transition-age students (age 14 or older). In addition, LAS is open to students who are eligible for free or reduced lunches. LAS is designed to encourage and empower all youth to overcome barriers to employment or

post-secondary training or education. LAS is a high-impact day of interactive career and life exploration with hands-on activities. This year’s theme for LAS 2011 is “Talent Has No Boundaries.” In addition to connecting students to loads of information and resources, this one high-energy event provides students the opportunity to build self-efficacy to help them achieve their dreams. LAS draws the country’s best keynote speakers and more than 50 session presenters, who are all dedicated to inspiring youth to achieve their goals, including representatives from various vocational and rehabilitative services, Social Security, the Department of Health, PA CareerLink®, business and industry, colleges and universities, and secondary education. LAS includes sessions in leadership development, career exploration, employment skills, post-secondary education and training, making good choices, internet safety, healthy lifestyles, social security, budgeting,

teambuilding, relationships, self-advocacy, and service dogs. This year’s LAS event, which is scheduled for October 20, 2011, will feature a keynote address by Robert Pruitt, who “specializes in the development of programs that provide youth and adults an opportunity for extraordinary personal growth . . . His program encourages young adults to “think outside the box” by looking deep within themselves . . . [and] teaches [students] how to use their special gifts and talents to assist them along the way.” The closing speaker will be Joe Markiewicz, a youth trainer and motivational speaker, who will talk about “How to Ignite, what Ignites youth” using the “40 Developmental Assets.” Markiewicz educates and motivates youth to be the change they want to see in their community. LAS unites students, schools, and the community to help all youth achieve their highest potential.

A Motivational Speaking & Leadership training. Robert Pruitt.com
Search Institute. 40 Developmental Assets for Adolescents, 2010. <http://www.search-institute.org/system/files/40AssetsList.pdf>

**"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America,
and to the republic for which it stands,
one nation under God, indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all."**



CUP Students Contribute Efforts to Submit a Winning Proposal for LAS—VTDC is Awarded \$5000

by Susanna Giesey—Grant Writer and Compliance Officer



VTDC/CUP Grant Team--Peter Protivnak (back row: third from left), Magin Deitz (fourth from right), and Danielle Leach (third from right); Susanna Giesey, VTDC (back row: first from right); Dr. Raymond Feroz, CUP (front row on right). (Also pictured are students in Rehab 575).

On Monday, June 6, VTDC received a letter from the Bridge Builders Community Foundations notifying us that VTDC was awarded a Venango Human Service Fund grant for LAS 2011 in the amount of \$5,000.

This grant will help to support Venango County participants. Based on last year's program attendance, of the 380 students who attended LAS in 2010, 41% came from Venango County schools.

VTDC's Venango Human Services grant proposal was completed in part as a class project by graduate students in the Rehabilitative Science program at Clarion University. The student grant project was coordinated by Dr. Ray Feroz, Professor of Special Education and Rehabilitative Sciences. Nine of Feroz's students teamed-up with a representative from one of three local non-profits to identify a funding need and work with an agency representative to complete and submit a grant proposal. The CUP team members who worked with Susanna Giesey, VTDC Grant Writer, included Peter Protivnak, Magin Deitz, and Danielle Leach. Other agencies to participate in the CUP non-profit grant project were the ARC of Clarion County, and the First United Methodist Church's "Fourth Avenue Adventure" project. The project concluded in April with team presentations to the class and agency representatives on their grant development experiences.

On behalf of everyone at VTDC, I would like to thank Dr. Ray Feroz and his team of dedicated students for their hard work and enthusiasm for the LAS grant project, and for the opportunity to be included in this year's class project.

VTDC, Inc.
239 Quaker Drive
Seneca, PA 16346

Phone: 814.676.5755
Fax: 814.676.9563
Website: www.vtdc.org

The Mission of Venango Training and Development Center, Inc., is to assist disabled and/or disadvantaged individuals to achieve their highest potential by providing quality programs, services, and opportunities.

Women's Health Concerns...

Managing family, home and job can take a toll on a woman's well-being, simply because there's so little time to focus on her personal health. That's true not only for women in the workplace but for full-time moms, too. If you're a woman, or you have women in your life, it's vital to have the right information about health issues that women face, such as:

- High risk pregnancy
- An abnormal mammogram
- Hormone replacement therapy
- Uterine fibroids or hysterectomy
- Menopause
- Cancers such as breast or ovarian
- Other problems such as back pain, osteoarthritis or heart problems



While the health issues cross gender boundaries, they affect women quite differently than men. Though much of the available information seems gender neutral, it is actually more geared toward men. That's why it's important to learn how these issues specifically affect women and the steps women can take for prevention and management. As for female-specific health issues, there's rarely one treatment that's right for everyone. That's why you need to be armed with information about all possible treatment options — so that you can explore with your physician what's right for you.

One great resource for information is the Highmark Health Coaches —specially trained health care professionals, such as nurses, dieticians, and respiratory therapists who are available to talk to you 24/7. With one phone call, you can get the most recent, unbiased information, and the help to deal with the stress, frustration and pain that accompany many health problems.

Volume 7, Issue 1



If you're facing a complex medical issue, or if you're concerned about issues that may arise in the future, you can reach a Health Coach at 1-888-BLUE-428. (1-888-258-3428)

If you're more comfortable online, visit www.highmarkbcbs.com where you'll find a wide array of information specifically aimed toward the health issues you are facing. This information can help you better understand your diagnosis and treatment options.



**HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY
4TH OF JULY!**

