

Newsletter April 2018
Volume 1 Issue 2

Voices of Penn Towne

Advancing Healthy Families & Promoting Health
Communities

Link Sylvia Watts McKinney, Newsletter Editor

Healthy Families/Healthy Communities Umbrella Program
Links Carolyn Oakley Lowe & Lynda Thomas-Mabine
Co-Chairs, Health and Human Services Lead Facet
Link Thais McNeal, Program Coordinator
Link Caroline DeMarco, President



Link Wilfreta Baugh
encouraged students
from Emlen Elementary
School to enter
Philadelphia Flower
Show.

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Campaign for Engagement:
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Social and Emotional Learning
by Link Deidre Farmbry

Schools Responding to the Urgency of Now Through Social and Emotional Learning By Link Deidre Farmbry, Ed.D

I am proud that our service as Penn Towne Links focuses on the human condition, especially our work with families and youth. While we are all fortunate to have the capacity to create an illusion of safety and security for ourselves and our families through the very deliberate choices we make, we must all remain cognizant of the reality that anything happening “out there” is on rapid transit to “in here.” Therefore, we must remain committed to helping to influence in positive ways all that is “out there.” Let us work diligently to protect our own social and emotional well-being and that of our organization so we may remain steadfast and sisterly in our service on behalf of the human condition.



Schools Responding to the Ugency of Now Through Social and Emotional Learning Academic, Social and Emotional Learning by Link Deidre Frambry, Ed.D

For the past eight years, Link Deidre Frambry has been a national District Senior Advisor for an organization fueled by outrage. CASEL, the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning, (www.casel.org), is outraged over the potentially devastating outcomes for students and society when students' social and emotional needs are not met. CASEL believes that schools and school districts have a responsibility to focus as much on social and emotional learning, or SEL, as they do on academics. CASEL districts, now 22 across the country, 4 of which I service, commit to helping students and adults increase their competence in 5 areas: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship building and responsible decision-making.

CASEL districts include practices such as morning meetings, mindfulness, meditation, peace corners, peer mediation, and restorative approaches to discipline. These districts find ways to elevate student voice in the name of decision-making, service learning, and social activism. These are districts where the focus on relationships is beginning to result in higher rates of attendance and lower rates of suspension and expulsion, bearing truth to the adage, "I don't care what you know unless I know that you care." After one of my CASEL districts experienced an in-school shooting nine years ago and thus began their journey of attending more intentionally and proactively to students' social and emotional needs, they brilliantly coined the term "Humanware" to project a counter image to the "hardware" that surfaces after tragedies - the metal detectors and surveillance cameras - expressing their belief that the journey to a more sane and safe society begins with a focus on the human condition.



Events

Financial Literacy Program -- helped residents navigate and manage resources. (October 2017, NT/HHS)

Recipe book with healthy breakfast, lunch, and dinner recipes -- a family of four could meet the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) requirements of \$116 per week (October 2017, NT/HHS)

Trim-the-Tree event with Methodist Service parents and children (December 2017, Arts/STY)

Conflict Resolution/Bullying workshop with Youth Action Organization (January 2018, STY/HHS)

ZUMBA with Link Vanessa Thomas Smith, a member of the Montgomery Chapter of the Links, Inc. (February 2018)

In association with the American Heart Association, **Chef Delilah**, demonstrated "Simple Cooking with Heart" (February 2018)



March 28th