



Head Start/Early Head Start Winter Wonderland

Donations Needed

The Head Start, Early Head Start and Even Start programs are gearing up for the holiday season with special events and activities for families and children in the programs.

On December 8, Early Head Start and Even Start will be taking families to the Festival of Lights in East Peoria. Families and staff will meet for dinner at Valeska Hinton and then will board PCCEO vans and head out to see the lights. Early Head Start takes its families to the festival every year and they really look forward to going.

Head Start families will also be taking a trip to see the Festival of Lights on December 14.

Fifty Early Head

Start children were chosen by Redeemer Lutheran Church and Caterpillar to be Angel Tree present recipients. Their names were submitted to Redeemer Lutheran Church in November.

Foster

opment programs this year will be the Winter Wonderland event. Winter Wonderland will be held at Webster School on December 17. Children in the programs will be given a gift by Santa. There will be games for the families to participate in and refreshments will

be served to those who attend this event.

Donations of gifts to give Head Start, Early Head Start and Even Start children are still needed to make sure everyone

attending receives something from Santa. If you would like to help, please drop off your unwrapped gift at Webster School, 923 W. Millman

or call 671-3960.



Grandparents will be visiting Head Start classes at Trewyn Pavilion on December 16 to sing carols.

The big event for our Early Childhood devel-

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Special Points of Interest

- PCCEO Offices will close Thursday, December 23rd at Noon and will be closed Friday, December 24th.
- PCCEO Offices will close Thursday, December 30th at Noon and will be closed Friday, December 31st.
- Energy Appointments will be taken January 7, 2005. Walk-ins at 8:00am. Appointments by phone at 8:30am.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day Events to be held January 17th.

Food Bank Wraps up Another Year

We have had a busy fall. Our annual luncheon took place and what a good time we had!! Sister Connie Probst, from the Illinois Anti-Hunger Coalition, was a wonderful guest speaker, as well as PCCEO'S Human Resource Specialist, Connie Johnson. We enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by our own Central Illinois Catering. Thanks to everyone for a wonderful job. A big thank you to the donors of door prizes:



Sister Connie Probst

Home Town Buffet, Target, Wal-Mart (University Street), Cub Foods, Olive Garden, China Village Buffet, Kohl's, Lowe's, Unclaimed Freight Store, Willow Knolls Theater, Bergner's, Red Carpet Car Wash, Grand Prairie Theater and Dave's Restaurant. We are very grateful to all our donors and volunteers.

Thank you to the Boy Scout Pack 3209, located in East Peoria, for the wonderful donation of over 1,100 pounds of canned goods. This was a first time food drive for these boys, age 6-12, and they did a fantastic job. They were under the direction of Melissa Newport. Thank you Melissa, boys and parents for your hard work. We are looking forward to working with you in the future and having you visit our Food Bank.

The Ultimate Tanning Salon (both Peoria locations) raised 550 pounds of non-perishables again this year!! You gals are great and you beat

your record of last year!!

Christy Smith, Administrative Manager at ADT on Knoxville Avenue, did a wonderful job collecting canned goods for the Food Bank and donating them in time for the holidays.

We also want to thank all staff at The Olive Garden (we understand it's a team effort) for all the extra effort given to package and box the soups, lasagna, meatballs, desserts, etc., you donate to our cause. The amount of salvaged food you supply feeds many homeless, hungry people. Thank you so very much. Your staff is wonderful to work with and we are proud to be in "partnership" with you, feeding the hungry.

Illinois Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn, also head of the Illinois Rural Affairs Council, has awarded another \$27,000 to the Illinois Food Bank Association. The grant will be evenly shared with the Peoria Area Food Bank and eight other food bank members in Illinois, each one receiving \$3,000. Our food bank will be using their share of the money toward the purchase of a badly needed truck. Thank you, Lt. Gov. Quinn, for your involvement and compassion toward the hungry throughout all of Illinois.

We look forward to serving you even better in the New Year. From our "house" to yours, have a happy and safe holiday.



PCCEO Telephone Directory

Emergency Services
Energy Assistance
Weatherization
Senior Meals
Small Business Assistance
Media Services
Administration
Central Illinois Catering
Human Resources
(309) 671-3900

Foster Grandparents
(309) 671-3950
Peoria Area Food Bank
(309) 671-3906
OKPARA Leasing
(Affordable Housing)
(309) 673-1508
Spring Grove Development
(309) 497-1098

HEAD START and EARLY HEAD START CENTERS

Webster
(309) 671-3960
Trewyn
(309) 671-3958
Valeksa Hinton
(309) 672-6810
Harrison
(309) 671-3926
Blaine
(309) 495-5290
Small Wonders
(309) 672-6331
YMCA
(309) 671-2700
Early Head Start
Even Start
(309) 495-5254



LIHEAP Sees Another Busy Season, Program Changes

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program started its winter season setting appointments for assistance in September. Those early appointments were for Seniors and disabled clients. Regular appointments were taken on October 1, and again on December 3. With increasing energy costs, the Energy Department has been kept very busy assisting those in need this season.

On average, it takes about two days for an application to be approved. Services during the winter season can be reconnected with 1/3 payment of the energy bill. Good Faith Payments no longer exist.



LIHEAP has also faced some changes. LIHEAP has moved from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, to the Illinois Department of Public Aid.

In previous years, we have been able to get power restored to homes the same day or the following day of application. Unfortunately, now it can take up to 5 days to restore power to homes.

The next day to call or stop in to make appointments for Energy Assistance will be January 7, 2005. Appointments may be made that day by coming in beginning at 8am or calling in beginning at 8:30am.

Martin Luther King Day Events Planned

**Monday,
January 17, 2005**

Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Luncheon
Featuring guests speakers, Actors and activists, Ossie and Ruby Davis.
Luncheon beings at 12:00 Noon at
The Peoria Civic Center Exhibit Hall C.

Annual Freedom March Will begin at 2:00pm
At Bradley University Garrett Center. Awards Ceremony to follow, Place to be announced.

People Helper

Ivora Regina Hearn, Program Services Support Specialist in the Administration Department at PCCEO, will be celebrating her four year anniversary with the organization in December.

As Program Services Support Specialist, Ivora assists almost every program at PCCEO in one way or another, from running video cameras in the Media Services Department when needed, to helping Human Resources process applications, employ-



ment status and insurance information, to helping our early childhood programs with several projects throughout the year. Ivora also helps the Foster Grandparent Program, Senior Meals, and Energy Services, providing various talents and services to those programs and the people they serve.

Ivora was born in Detroit, MI, moved to Peoria, graduated from Woodruff High School in 1977, and lived in Long Beach,

CA for 9 years before coming back to Peoria.

Ivora has three daughters, Jessica (20), Jennifer (18) and J'Lyn (11) as well as two grandsons, J'Sean Jr. and Gage.

Ivora LOVES her job and working for PCCEO. In her spare time, she enjoys watching old movies and reciting the lines.

The Administration Office, and all of us at PCCEO are very grateful for all of the hard work Ivora does. We are so glad you love what you do and hope you enjoy working with us for a long time!



Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc.

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Peoria IL 61605

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Serving the Peoria Area for over 35 years!

***Helping People.
Changing Lives.***



Find Us Online at
www.pcceo.org

PCCEO Celebrates the Holidays



The PCCEO family held its annual Holiday Party, once again at Landmark Recreational Center. This year, the planners decided to spice things up a little bit.

A little competition was on the menu this year, and it went over well. Those willing to compete were divided into teams based on department or program. There were six teams: Head Start; Head Start Satellite Sites; Media, Administration and Accounting; Foster Grandparents and Maintenance; Early Head Start and Food Bank; and Energy and Kitchen.

The games started off with "Family Feud" type trivia, with representatives from each team standing off and earning points

for correct answers. We even had a couple of our own little "Fear Factor" challenges. One was finding a live worm in cold, slimy bowl of rubber fishing worms,



while blindfolded. Extra points could be earned by eating that live worm. We also played a little "Name that Tune." For the last round of games, the two

teams with the most points competed against each other in a contest of using the words in the PCCEO Mission Statement in a rap. The final decision came from the "Board Room," Apprentice style, with Mr. Bragg, Chris Artis and Connie Johnson serving as the Board.

And the winners? The Foster Grandparents/Maintenance team claimed the traveling trophy for this year's games. The Food Bank/ Early Head Start team took second place. Congratulations to both teams!

TONS of door prizes, dancing, music and food also graced our celebration throughout the night, making this party a great way for us to celebrate the holidays and end the year together.