



Steel Valley Family Center News



DECEMBER 2023

Staff Message

December ushers in the holiday season which will be a busy one at the family center. We hope that you can come to one of our holiday events that we will be having at the beginning of December. The center will be closed from Monday, December 25 to Tuesday, January 2 to allow the staff to enjoy the holidays with family and friends and to have some much-needed relaxation. If you have an emergency during this time please text or call 412-310-7955 and someone will get back to you within 24 hours.

We would like to wish all of you a safe, happy and healthy holiday season and we look forward to seeing what 2024 brings to all of your families and the center.

- Steel Valley Family Center Staff

Events Calendar

Friday, December 1

Home Run Dads, 10 a.m.

The Home Runs Dad group will meet for a celebration of the completion of the program! This event is for dads who have attended the last five sessions of the Home Run Dads program. If you are interested in our fatherhood program please reach out to Dan at 412-722-4532 because classes will start again in January.

Friday, December 1; Friday, December 8 & Friday, December 15

Drop-In Playtime, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

We will have drop-in hours in our playroom on Fridays, so anyone is welcome to bring their children but an adult must be present and stay with the child for the whole time. Childcare is not provided; children must be supervised by their parents.

Saturday, December 2

Pictures with Santa, 10 a.m. - Noon

Come meet Santa at the family center before the Homestead Christmas Parade! Families can take pictures with Santa, get a book from Reading Ready Pittsburgh and leave with a treat.

Tuesday, December 5

Parent Christmas Party, 5 p.m.

Join us for our annual Christmas Party for the adults at the center. We will provide dinner and dessert, games and music! If you would like to participate in the gift exchange please bring a \$10 gift with you. If you would like to attend the party please contact the center by December 1 so we ensure that we have enough food for everyone attending.

Our Mission

We are an educational community that advocates and advances equitable opportunities for every learner.

Our Vision

Through equitable access, all learners will achieve their full potential.

Staff

Senior Site Director

Holly Cherpak

Senior Family Development Specialist

Jasmine Purkey

Family Development Specialist

Brittney Hauslee

Robin Mercuri

Drug and Alcohol Case Manager

Sharlene Sikorski

Fatherhood Facilitator & Van Driver

Danny Martin

Receptionist/Recruiter

LaRita Alred

Main Number

412-461-8019



parents as teachers®

BLUE RIBBON AFFILIATE

Steel Valley Family Center | 304 E. 8th Ave. | Homestead, PA 15120

412-461-8019 | steelvalleyfc@aiu3.net

Hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday - Friday

Events Calendar (continued)

Wednesday, December 6 and Wednesday, December 20

Story Time at the Library, 11 a.m.

Join Ms. Robin at the Carnegie Library of Homestead for storytime. She will read a book, do a craft and all children will get a snack to take home.

**Monday, December 25 to Tuesday, January 2 - Center Closed
(Christmas Holiday/New Year's Day)**

Community Events

Saturday, December 2

Homestead Christmas Parade, Noon

The parade kicks off from Forest Ave. in West Homestead, proceeds down 8th Ave. and concludes by Dollar Tree in Munhall.

Carnegie Library of Homestead Family Holiday Party, 1:30 - 3 p.m.

This event will follow the Homestead Christmas Parade; there will be photos with Santa, ornament making, cookie decorating, and more!

Main Street Holiday Market, 2 - 6 p.m.

Munhall Market Nights will have an afternoon holiday edition following the Homestead Parade. The event will have santa, craft vendors, children's activities, food and more!

Wednesday, December 13

Rainbow Kitchen Resource Fair, 9 a.m.

This month's Rainbow Kitchen Resource Fair will be held at the Carnegie Library of Homestead, so be sure to drop and by and check it out.

Thank You

- 412 Food Rescue
- Costco
- Salvation Army
- Richard Bazy and Schultz Ford for providing Thanksgiving turkeys for our families!
- Munhall Police, The Best of the Batch and Patrick Peterson of the Pittsburgh Steelers for providing Thanksgiving meals for some of our families and members of the Steel Valley Community.

Photos With Santa

The Waterfront will be doing Santa photos on the following dates:

- Saturdays from Noon to 5 p.m., December 2, 9 and 16
- Sundays from Noon to 5 p.m., December 3, 10 and 17
- Tuesdays from 5 to 8 p.m., December 5, 12 and 19
- Thursdays from 5 to 8 p.m., December 7, 14 and 21
- Sunday, December 10 from 11 a.m. to Noon:
Sensory Friendly Hour

Reservations can be made by [clicking this link](#) or visiting Eventbrite directly. A \$5 registration fee is required and will be donated to Jeremiah's Place.

Resources

Bread Donation Giveaway

This will take place outside the family center along 8th Avenue every Tuesday and Friday at 9:00 a.m. If you need bread for your household, please stop by.

Diaper Bank

The family center gives out 50 diapers and a pack of wipes per child, per family, every month. If you are interested in receiving diapers please call or stop by.



What's Happening at AIU

NFL Star Sports AIU Cause on Cleats

An NFL star from Western Pennsylvania will support an initiative near and dear to the Allegheny Intermediate Unit – by using his feet. Dane Jackson, a cornerback for the Buffalo Bills, will wear the AIU's Stand for Children logo on his cleats for the Bills' game vs. the Kansas City Chiefs at 4:25 p.m. E.T. on Sunday, December 10. The cleats, worn as part of the NFL's 'My Cause, My Cleats' initiative will be auctioned with proceeds benefitting the Stand for Children fund.

Jackson (left) is the nephew of Mike Smith, Sto-Rox Family Center Site Director (right) who helped make this special footwear happen. Jackson was a football star at Cornell High School – where Smith coached him – and the University of Pittsburgh before reaching the NFL.



This initiative is happening at a special time of year for Stand with Children; the Stand for Children Giving Trees are up at the AIU central office in Homestead. Staff are encouraged to take tags from the tree to provide gifts for children supported by AIU programs.



Hope for a brighter future.

'Chill Room Debuts' at Community School East

The salt lamps give off a warm, welcoming glow. The sounds of small waves splashing onto a beach provide a calming background. When you step inside the 'Chill Room' at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Community School East, you instantly feel calmer. Unlike other classrooms at Community School East (CSE) in Turtle Creek, the shades are drawn and multi-colored lighting illuminates the space. The 'Chill Room' is part of the trauma-responsive approach by the AIU's Alternative Education Program, which serves students who are temporarily excluded from a traditional school setting.



"They're able to cope better, they're able to transition back to their (home school district) classes better and identify their feelings," said Pitts, who worked with staff members at CSE to research other 'chill rooms' in local schools. A key feature of the Chill Room is the use of virtual reality (VR) technology. Students use calming and mindfulness apps through two Meta Oculus VR headsets to manage their emotions and re-center themselves.

Appreciation Week



During the week of Monday, November 13, the AIU celebrated its employees with an appreciation week. Coinciding with American Education Week, this was a great opportunity for the AIU as a whole to celebrate the amazing work being done by its employees. All sorts of events were held, from Mindfulness Monday to Fanatic Friday. Thanks to all of our employees who took part in this wonderful event!



Work for the AIU

- [Application Support Specialist](#)
- [Fatherhood Faciliator](#)
- [Head Start Family Advocate](#)
- [Mon Valley School Social Worker](#)
- [Physical Therapist Assistant](#)
- [Long Term Substitute Custodian, Sunrise School](#)
- [TEAR Trauma Advocate, Highlands Family Center](#)

This is just a small sample of the jobs available at the AIU.

For more information, visit: aiu3.net/careers.

December

2023

Steel Valley Family Center

412-461-8019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Bread – 9 am Home Run Dad's – 10 am	2 Photo's With Santa -10 am – 12 pm Homestead Christmas Parade – 12 pm
3	4 ESL – 11:30 am	5 Bread – 9 am Parent Council Christmas Party- 5 pm	6 Story time at the Library with Ms. Robin – 11 am ESL – 11:30 am	7 Happy Hannukah!	8 Bread – 9 am	9
10	11 ESL- 11:30 am	12 Bread – 9 am	13 ESL – 11:30 am	14 PAT Group – 10 am	15 Bread – 9 am	16
17	18 ESL – 11:30 am	19 Bread – 9 am	20 Story time at the Library with Ms. Robin – 11 am ESL – 11:30 am	21	22 Bread – 9 am	23
24	25 Center Closed Merry Christmas!	26 Center Closed In case of emergency Call/text 412-310-7955	27 Center Closed In case of emergency Call/text 412-310-7955	28 Center Closed In case of emergency Call/text 412-310-7955	29 Center Closed In case of emergency Call/text 412-310-7955	30
31						



AIU Steel Valley Family Center
presents

Santa is coming to Town

Saturday, December 2
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Steel Valley Family Center
304 E. 8th Ave Homestead PA 15120

- Photos with Santa
- Book giveaway
- Fun for the whole family!



Santa is Coming to Munhall

Saturday, December 9, 2023 12-2pm
At Green Funeral Home



Family & Pet Photos
with Santa!
Cookies & Hot Cocoa!
Send Letters to Santa!
Childrens Crafts!

*This is a complimentary event and
is open to the entire community*

GEORGE IRVIN
Green
FUNERAL HOME INC
Supervisor Michael J. Sarraino



Monthly Resource EVENT!

Wednesday December 13th

10:00am – Noon

Where: Carnegie of Homestead Library 510 E 10th Avenue, 15120

Everyone is Welcome & All Services/Information are FREE!

Who Will Be Here:

Rainbow Kitchen Community Services: providing information about programs and services offered; other available programs and resources in the community

Animal Friends: program information and free pet food

Community Life: providing program information about helping older adults to live independently at home

Deb's Clothing Closet: providing free clothing for men & children

Dress for Success: providing clothing, accessories & employment assistance to women

First Class Marketing: Affordable Connectivity Program. Free cellphone or tablet to qualified individuals

Goodwill: providing program information for youth and adults, including free job trainings and GED

Pittsburgh Community Services Inc: providing program information

Steel Valley Family Center: providing information about programs and services offered

Unity Recovery: non-clinical, peer-based recovery support services to individuals, family members, and loved ones. Increasing recovery capital through achieving goals related to things such as employment, education, financial health, personal safety, relationships, and more.

And More!!

Hope to see you there!

You're invited to our 2023 Christmas
**11TH ANNUAL FOOD BASKET
OF LOVE GIVEAWAY**

Distribution at Barrett Elementary School
will be as follows:

Friday, December 15, 2023 @ 10:00 am - 6:00pm

Saturday, December 16, 2023 10:00am - 5:00pm

Location: 221 E 12th Ave, Homestead, PA 15120



Park Place has once again been blessed to participate with Joseph McCain's Christmas Food Basket Distribution. The baskets will include most of the "fixings" needed to make a meal for a family with the exception of perishable meat.

JOIN US
Everyone is Welcome

Please bring an empty box to fill with all the meal fixings available If
you have questions please contact:

PARK PLACE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"The Friendly Church Across From the Park"

215 E. Tenth Avenue Homestead PA, 15120

<https://www.facebook.com/parkplace.amechurch>



Come in and play!
We're open for drop-in playtime!

Steel Valley

Fridays 10AM-1 PM



Stop in to learn more!



Scan the QR code to learn
more or visit
<https://acdhs.org/FCEvents>





ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

475 East Waterfront Drive | Homestead, PA 15120 | 412-394-5700 | aiu3.net

Early Childhood Education



It's never too early to enroll! KINDERGARTEN READINESS Begins at Birth

Early Head Start, Head Start and Pre-K Counts programs offer
Literacy Development • Math • Science • Social Skills

To enroll: Kim Fowler at 412-335-1143 Or scan to complete a pre application



Head Start and Pre-K Counts programs provide preschool children ages three to five with quality, flexible programming, designed to reinforce and respond to the strengths and needs of each individual child and family.

Early Head Start Services are available to pregnant women and families with children from birth to three years of age. (*Openings for Early Head Start are limited.*)

Families must reside in Allegheny County and meet program guidelines to participate.

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