



# Steel Valley Family Center News



OCTOBER 2023

## Staff Message

October is going to bring some fun activities to the family center! We are excited to announce that the Queen of Hearts will be coming to our family center on Thursday, October 26 at 10 a.m. for storytime (see flyer). We hope you can all join us for this fun activity!

- Steel Valley Family Center staff

## Events Calendar

### Wednesday, October 4 and October 11 - Storytime at the Library

Ms. Robin will be doing storytime at the Carnegie Library of Homestead at 11:00 a.m. both of these days. Join her for a story, a craft and a snack.

### Tuesday, October 10 - Center Closed

The family center will be closed on this date for staff training at an AIU In-Service Day.

### Friday, October 13 - Fatherhood Group

At 10 a.m., Danny Martin will hold a fatherhood group featuring the exciting new Home Run Dads program! Fathers: if you are interested in attending this group please reach out to Danny at 412-461-8019.

### Thursday, October 19 - Financial Workshop

Join us at the center from 10 a.m. to Noon for a financial workshop 'To Your Credit' with PNC. You'll learn a lot about dollars and sense!

### Thursday, October 26 - Queen of Hearts

This lovely storyteller will be coming to the family center at 10 a.m. to read to our children! We hope you can join us; call to RSVP.

## 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.

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

## 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

Robin Mercuri

### Drug and Alcohol Case Manager

Sharlene Sikorski

### Fatherhood Facilitator & Van Driver

Danny Martin

### Receptionist/Recruiter

LaRita Alred

### Main Number

412-461-8019

## Thank You

- 412 Food Rescue
- Costco
- Salvation Army

## Community Events

**Saturday, October 14 - "One Valley" 15120 Cleanup, 9 a.m. - Noon**

Join your neighbors from Homestead, Munhall and West Homestead to clean up the 15120 community. Volunteers and zone captains are needed. Check out the 'Munhall CARES' or borough Facebook pages to sign up, or email 'munhallcares@gmail.com.'

**Tuesday, October 17 - Beverly's Birthday's Community Baby Shower**

This free community baby shower will be held at Homestead United Presbyterian Church starting at 11 a.m. You must register with Beverly's Birthdays for this event and spaces are limited.

**Wednesday, October 18 - Rainbow Kitchen Resource Fair, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Our neighbors at Rainbow Kitchen, at 135 East 9th Avenue in Homestead, will hold their monthly resource fair. This event is a great opportunity for families to learn more about the services available in their communities.

**Saturday, October 28 - Homestead Harvest Festival, 5 - 10 p.m.**

Come on down to Homestead for a wonderful Fall festival!

**Tuesday, October 31 - Produce to the People, 9 a.m.**

Drop by the Salvation Army's Homestead location, at 104 East 9th Avenue, for this food donation event.

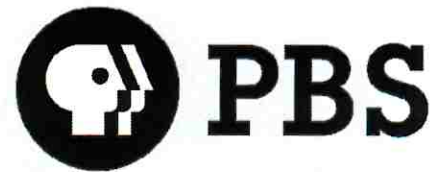
## 365 Dads

### AIU Fatherhood Program

We are a part of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit that is focused on helping fathers across Allegheny County be the best versions of themselves. We provide equitable access to resources including basic necessities and referrals.

We service fathers and male caretakers of children from ages 0-5. Call one of our facilitators to find a meeting in your neighborhood.

- Tyrone Fisher, 412-816-5137
- Arthur Johnson, 412-760-6737
- Dan Martin, 412-722-4532
- Michael Smith, 412-771-6817



### PBS for Parents

Did you know that PBS has a [section just for parents](#)? It's filled with all sorts of articles, resources, tips, and advice for you and your family.



### Fire Prevention

October 8 - 14 is National Fire Prevention Week. Check out the National Fire Protection Association's [website](#) (nfpa.org) for information on how to prevent fires in your home. Remember, the top causes of fires are:

- Cooking
- Heating
- Electrical
- Smoking
- Candles

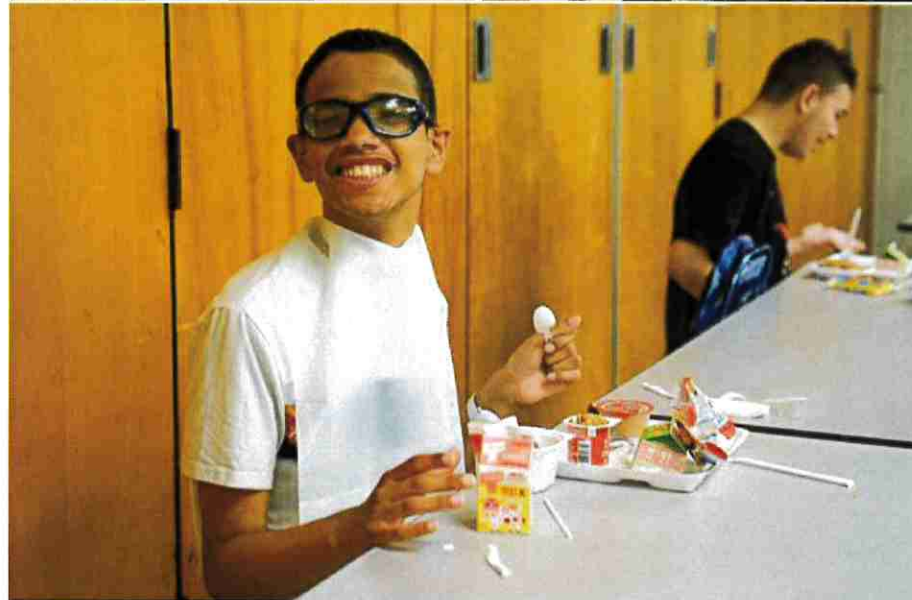
Remember to have a plan in place for your family, should a fire break out. The NFPA has information on how to do that, and much more.



# What's Happening at AIU

## AIU Holds Back-to-School Celebration

We're incredibly happy to welcome students back to AIU-operated Special Education Schools! Our students hit the ground running on plenty of assignments and projects. For our teachers, there's plenty to explore as we utilize a new curriculum this year! Check out more first day photos from the AIU's [Spotlight on Special Education blog](#).



## Early Childhood Education Programming

Head Start and Pre-K Counts 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. All families must reside in Allegheny County and meet program guidelines to participate. Please reach out to the AIU at 412-394-4594 with any questions.

Use your smart device to scan this QR code to fill out a pre-application.



## "Heart of a Hero"



Allison Tomko, a Pre-K Counts teacher serving in the West Mifflin School District, was the recipient of the 2023 Allegheny County Head Start Education Association's Heart of a Hero Award. Tomko was presented with the award during the Early Childhood Education in-service day on Aug. 30. The award is presented annually to the ACHSEA employee who goes above and beyond his or her required duties to support and enhance the lives of the children and families we serve.

## Work for the AIU

- [Administrative Support](#)
- [Case Manager](#)
- [Communications Specialist](#)
- [Family Advocate](#)
- [Fatherhood Faciliator](#)
- [Family Development Specialist](#)
- [Part-Time Adult English Language Instructor](#)
- [Social Worker](#)

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

For more information, visit: [aiu3.net/careers](http://aiu3.net/careers).

# October

2023

Steel Valley Family Center

412-461-8019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Bread - 9 am	Bread - 9 am	Storytime at the Library - 11 am	Bread - 9 am	Bread - 9 am	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Center Closed for Staff Training	Center Closed for Staff Training	Story time at the library - 11 am	Bread - 9 am	Bread - 9 am Home Run Dad's - 10 am	"One Valley " 15120 Cleanup - 9 am
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Bread - 10 am Beverly's Birthdays Baby Shower - 11 am	Bread - 10 am Beverly's Birthdays Baby Shower - 11 am		Bread - 9 am PNC Financial Workshop - "To Your Credit" - 10 am	Bread - 9 am Home Run Dad's - 10 am	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Bread - 10 am	Bread - 10 am		Bread - 9 am Queen of Hearts Storyteller - 10 am	Bread - 9 am Home Run Dad's - 10 am Patricia's Reader - 10 am	Homestead Harvest Festival - 5 pm
29	30	31				
	Bread - 10 am	Bread - 10 am				



# Queen of Hearts Storytime



Kim Adley, a.k.a. the 'Queen of Hearts,' will bring her unique brand of storytelling to children at AIU Family Centers this Fall. We look forward to having her visit our centers!

**COME AND SEE HER AT:**

**Steel Valley Family Center**

304 8th Ave.

Homestead, PA 15120

412-461-8019

*Thursday, October 26 at 10:00 a.m.*



**Family and  
Community  
Education  
Services**





# **The Salvation Army**

104 East 9th Avenue  
(corner of 9th and West Streets)  
In Homestead  
412 461-2460



## **Christmas Assistance “Angel Tree” And Project Bundle-Up 2023 Applications**

Servicing Zip Code Areas 15120, 15122, 15123, 15207, 15227, 15217, 15008, 15035, 15104, 15112, 15140, 15145, 15146, 15148, 15218, 15239  
(15221-for this zip code please ask if we service your area),

We are currently taking applications for Angel Tree and Project Bundle-Up

Project Bundle Up is not guaranteed/Senior 62 and older can apply.

**ONCE ALL OF THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.**

**applications for Christmas Assistance and Project Bundle-Up  
will be done over the phone, We will call you.**

**NO WALK-INS PLEASE!**

**INFORMATION REQUIRED WILL NEED TO BE FAXED TO 412 461-2808**

**OR EMAILED TO [sandra.wolfe@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:sandra.wolfe@use.salvationarmy.org)**

**Information required includes:**

- Photo ID for all adults in the home.
- Proof of residency.

(this can be a current utility bill **OR** a piece of mail that shows your name, address, and the month you are applying.

\* Proof of age for all children. Grandparents must provide proof of custody.

(birth certificate **OR** medical card with child's name and birthdate)

When we call you, we will need, 3 Toys suggestions per child for children 13 and under .

(toy suggestions need to be \$25.00 each or under, see attached toy suggestions)

**MAKE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER IN YOUR FAX OR EMAIL.**

Please note there is no guarantee of any assistance until we confirm that with you.

**APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE STARTED UNTIL ALL INFORMATION IS RECEIVED.**

We look forward to hearing from you!

Thank You and May God Bless You as we prepare to celebrate this Holy, Holiday Season!

***The Salvation Army, Steel Valley Worship and Service Center***

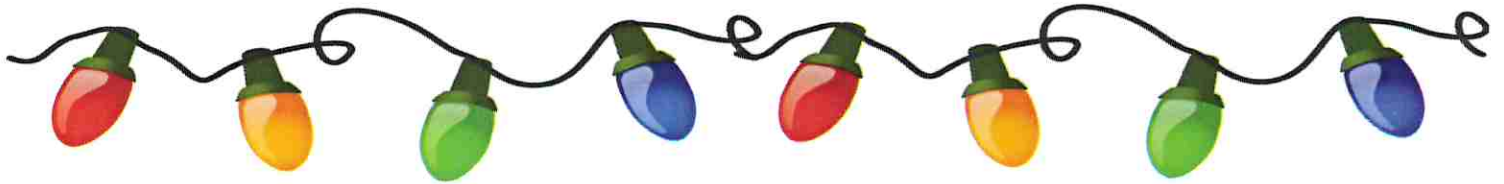


# Gift Ideas



DOING THE MOST GOOD

When shopping please keep in mind the child's age. Most toys will have an age range printed on them, but if you are unsure don't hesitate to ask a store employee. Below are some ideas to help you out. Also, use your imagination – go to a toy department and look around, browse store ads and talk to family or friends. Enjoy the shopping experience and remember...you are giving a child a Christmas to *treasure*.



## Birth to Age 4

- 🎁 Playskool, Fisher Price, Fisher Price Little People, Little Tykes, Laugh & Learn and Leapfrog, Learning Toys/Playsets
- 🎁 Activity Toys/Busy Boxes/Push Toys/Learn to Walk Toys/Riding Toys/Play Mats
- 🎁 Sound Machines/Mirrors/Crib Toys/Car Seat Toys/Rattles/Teething Toys/Bath Toys
- 🎁 Baby Bath Supplies—Shampoo, Lotion, Infant Grooming Kit

- 🎁 Activity Books/Coloring Books, Crayons, Crayola Color Wonder, Play-Doh
- 🎁 Dolls like Baby Alive and Cabbage Patch
- 🎁 Dress-Up Accessories
- 🎁 Blocks/Legos/Duplo
- 🎁 Musical Instruments, Bubble Makers, Balls (soft, indoor)

- 🎁 Disney Movies/Disney Junior Characters such as...Mickey and Minnie, Doc McStuffins, Vampirina, Fancy Nancy, Muppet Babies, Disney T.O.T.S., Mickey's Clubhouse, Puppy Dog Pals, PJ Masks and Disney Princesses
- 🎁 Nick Jr. Shows/Characters such as...Paw Patrol, Shimmer & Shine, Sunny Day, Nella the Princess Knight
- 🎁 Baby Shark, Peppa Pig, Blippi, Thomas the Tank Engine, Thomas and Friends and Daniel Tiger



# Ages 5 to 9

- 🎁 Disney Movies/Characters like Frozen, Disney Princesses and Disney Descendants
- 🎁 JoJo Siwa, Unicorns, Fur Real Pets
- 🎁 Dolls: Barbies, LOL, Candy Locks, My Life/Our Generation, Kindi Kids
- 🎁 DC Superhero Girls
- 🎁 Arts & Crafts, Flip Sequin Items

- 🎁 Legos, K'nex, Minecraft
- 🎁 Pokémon, Toy Story, Marvel Superheroes, Dinosaurs
- 🎁 Science Kits, Space/Solar System
- 🎁 Cars, Hot Wheels, Motorcycles, Trucks, Remote Controlled Vehicles
- 🎁 Fortnite

# Girls Ages 10 to 13

- 🎁 Perfume/Body Lotion Kits, Bath Bombs
- 🎁 Purse, Wallet, Watch
- 🎁 Make-Up, Nail Polish
- 🎁 Headphones/Bluetooth Speakers
- 🎁 Arts & Crafts, Adult Coloring Books with Markers/Colored Pencils
- 🎁 Books, Puzzles
- 🎁 Harry Potter, Legos
- 🎁 Instant Camera
- 🎁 Journal, Letter Board
- 🎁 Blanket/Mermaid Blanket
- 🎁 Water Bottles



# Boys Ages 10 to 13

- 🎁 Star Wars
- 🎁 Hexbug Battle Bots
- 🎁 Legos
- 🎁 Science Experiments, Art Kits
- 🎁 Nerf, Sports Balls, Water Bottles, Drawstring Backpack
- 🎁 Headphones/Bluetooth Speakers
- 🎁 Skateboard, Scooter
- 🎁 Remote Controlled Vehicles, Drones
- 🎁 Watch
- 🎁 Blanket

**Merry  
Christmas!**



# "ONE VALLEY" 15120 CLEANUP

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join your neighbors from Homestead, Munhall  
and West Homestead to clean up our 15120  
community!

**Volunteers/Zone Captains needed!**

See borough Facebook pages/Munhall CARES Facebook to sign up  
[munhallcares@gmail.com](mailto:munhallcares@gmail.com)





HOMESTEAD BOROUGH

# HARVEST FESTIVAL

ON EAST 9TH AVENUE  
IN FRONT OF FIRE  
STATION

Saturday,  
October 28th

From 5pm-10pm

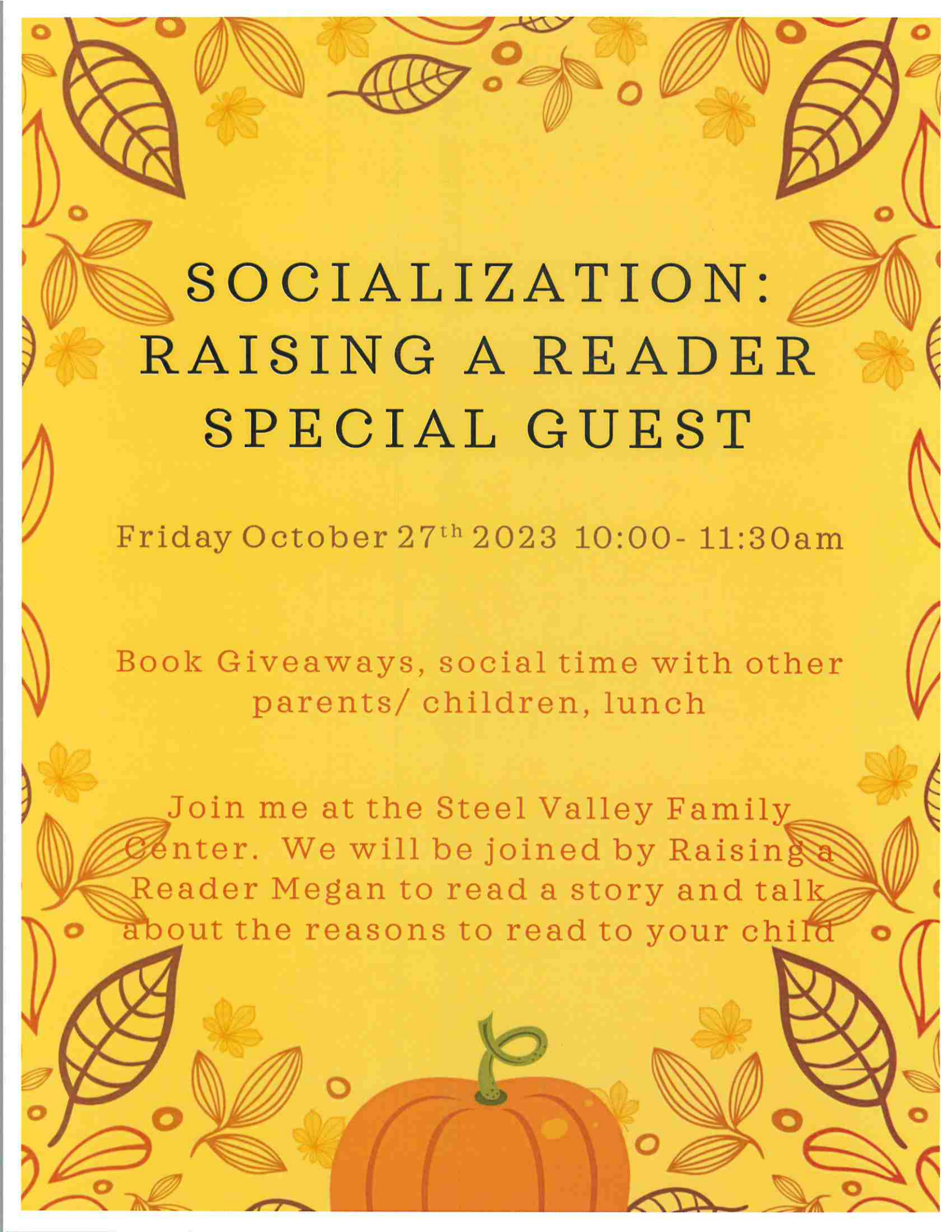
VENDORS  
COSTUME CONTEST  
FOOD TRUCKS  
MUSIC  
KIDS ZONE  
GAMES

*Open to All*

For more information:

Call: 412 461-1340

[www.Homessteadborough.com](http://www.Homessteadborough.com)



# SOCIALIZATION: RAISING A READER SPECIAL GUEST

Friday October 27<sup>th</sup> 2023 10:00- 11:30am

Book Giveaways, social time with other  
parents/ children, lunch

Join me at the Steel Valley Family  
Center. We will be joined by Raising a  
Reader Megan to read a story and talk  
about the reasons to read to your child





# Early Head Start

## WHAT IS THIS PROGRAM?

We are an Early Childhood Education program from the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for infants, toddlers, pregnant women and their families. We help promote the development of children, support the efforts of parents to fulfill their roles, help families move towards self-sufficiency and assist pregnant women with access to pre-natal and post-partum care.



## SUPPORT IS OFFERED TO

- Pregnant Women
- Families With Children  
From Birth to Age 3

## WHAT WE CAN PROVIDE

- Weekly home visits
- Parent/child activities
- Parent meetings
- Health and safety support
- Community resources

## ENROLLMENT CONTACTS

**Christina Morgan Campbell**  
412-722-4188  
christina.morgancamp@aiu3.net

**Donna Reinhart**  
412-804-8784  
donna.reinhart@aiu3.net

**NOTE:** Families must reside in Allegheny County and meet program guidelines to participate. Please reach out to verify your service area and enroll your child.

Use your smart device to scan this QR code to complete the Early Head Start pre-interest application.



In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OAS-CR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

*Save the Date*  
Saturday, December 2, 2023



*Steel Valley  
Holiday Parade*

Parade starts at 12:00 PM  
Lineup by 11:30 AM on Forest Avenue

W. 8th Ave. to E. 8th Ave.



For more information, email: [steelvalleyholidayparade@gmail.com](mailto:steelvalleyholidayparade@gmail.com)  
Follow us on Facebook: Steel Valley Holiday Parade