



# Steel Valley Family Center News



MARCH 2024

## Staff Message

We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the dedicated volunteers from PNC Bank who have been invaluable in our center since last fall. These volunteers have graciously devoted their time to conduct financial literacy classes for our families. Through these classes, our families have gained essential knowledge about credit building, budgeting, and managing bank accounts. Additionally, PNC employees have decorated our front windows with delightful decorations for both winter and now, spring! Stop by and admire their creative touch. Furthermore, the PNC team - from PNC Proud - has contributed to the upkeep of our center by assisting with tidying up.

We are also immensely grateful for the generous donation PNC provided in February (see below). PNC employees gave us a \$3,000 grant from the PNC Foundation, earned through their volunteer work at the center. Thanks, PNC!



## Reminders

### Van Ride Scheduling

If you require transportation via our van service, please remember to schedule your ride at least two days in advance to ensure availability.

### Open Play Hours

Every Friday from 10 am to 1 pm, we invite parents and children to join us for open play hours at the center. Take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy our playroom and engage in various activities with your little ones.

### Daylight Saving Time

As a friendly reminder, Daylight Saving Time starts Saturday, March 10. Don't forget to set your clocks one hour forward!

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

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



## Events Calendar (continued)

**Friday, March 8; Friday, March 15**

*365 Dads Fatherhood Program, 10 a.m.*

This group provides dads with an opportunity to talk with other men about the joys and challenges of fatherhood. If you are interested in joining please contact Danny Martin at 412-722-4532.

**Friday, March 8; Friday, March 15; Friday, March 22**

*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.

**Wednesday, March 6; Wednesday, March 13**

*Storytime at the Library with Ms. Robin, 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.

**Tuesday, March 12**

*Parent Council, 5 p.m.*

We will have our quarterly Parent Council Meeting to discuss activities/ events happening at the center. If you are interested in joining the conversation please feel free to come! Dinner, childcare and transportation are provided.

**Thursday, March 14**

*Wellness Group, 10 a.m.*

Join us for a morning of painting and chatting with other parents in the center. We will provide the activity and breakfast and you can provide the conversation! If you are interested in attending please call the center by Thursday, March 7.

**Friday, March 29 • Center Closed**

The center will be closed on this date in observance of Good Friday. We will reopen on Monday, April 1.

## 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.



## 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.

## Thank You...

- 412 Food Rescue
- Beverly's Birthdays
- Costco
- Go Puff
- Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
- PNC Bank
- Salvation Army



# What's Happening at AIU

## New Head Start Classroom Takes Shape



The whine of drills and pounding of nails inside a corner of the AIU's Central Office in Homestead will soon be replaced by the laughter of children and the lessons imparted by teachers. The space is being developed into a Head Start classroom that will service more than a dozen preschool-age children and serve as a vital training ground to develop future generations of teaching talent.

"Through close partnerships with Preschool Early Intervention, the classroom will be a place where more seasoned staff can practice and see how to implement strategies to support children with differing abilities," said Wendy Smith, Ed.D., director of Early Childhood Education Services at the AIU. [Read more at the AIU's website.](#)

## AIU Deaf/Hard of Hearing Support Program Hosts 'Access Your Future'

Earlier this month, students from across the region converged at the AIU's Central Office for Access Your Future, a special event hosted by the AIU Deaf and Hard of Hearing Support Program in partnership with the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation's (OVR) Early Reach Program.

The empowering event focused on several aspects of independence for Deaf and hard of hearing students, including self-advocacy and communication styles as well as the use of assistive technology and accommodations. [Check out more photos on our Spotlight blog.](#)



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## Work for the AIU



- [Case Manager, Project ELECT](#)
- [Community-Based Fatherhood Facilitator](#)
- [Early Childhood Educator](#)
- [Family Development Specialist](#)
- [Head Start Teacher Assistant](#)
- [Student Support Specialist](#)
- [Senior Secretary, Blind and Visually Impaired Program](#)

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

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

*Congratulations!*

**30 UNDER 30**  
PITTSBURGH BUSINESS TIMES & LEADERSHIP PITTSBURGH



**Melody Devenney**  
English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher  
Allegheny Intermediate Unit



**aiu** Spring 2024



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