GECAC Gazette

Vol. 17, Issue 12 ◇ December 2013

An informational newsletter for GECAC employees
Edward Sitter, editor

Food and Transportation Services

Meeting the Needs of the Community

Operated through the Educational, Training & Community Services (ETCS) division of GECAC, the **Food Services Program** prepares meals from four kitchen sites: Erie, Albion, Union City and Corry. Meals are served to clients of the Area Agency on Aging, Head Start and Pre-K Counts. Meals are prepared in compliance with standards requiring that 1/3 of the clients daily nutritional requirement be met. Food service staff is certified through food safety training by the Erie County Health Department. Approximately 1,500-2,000 meals are prepared daily.

Transportation Services, provided through the ETCS division, provide door-to-door services for Head Start children attending centers, as well to other GECAC programs as needed. Children are transported in school buses operated by drivers who hold a CDL license with a School Bus Endorsement. In addition to client transportation, the program delivers meals to senior centers, Head Start centers, and Pre-K Counts centers.

Transportation staff also provide management services to the agency's fleet of vehicles including purchasing, inspections and maintenance. The Transportation fleet currently consists of 23 school buses, one Omni-bus, nine delivery vans, two transit vans, one plow truck and three Weatherization vehicles. Our Omni-bus or "Limo" seats 24 passengers and is available for transportation for special events.

For more information feel free to contact **Scott Lansberry in Food Services** at ext. 458, **Nick DiPlacido** in Transportation Services at ext. 432 or **Nicole Johnson** at ext. 406.

Employee of the Month

Benny Mitchell
Senior Center Services Program Assistant

Benny epitomizes the meaning of 'going above and beyond' and 'team player'. In his role, he is often pulled in many directions and handles it all with a great attitude.

John Johnston, Public Affairs Specialist for Social Security, shared that he referred a woman to Benny who was facing a possible penalty payment associated with her Medicare. The case was complicated and he did not have hope that the penalty could be waived. He was thrilled to find out that Benny was able to help her achieve a good outcome.

The woman was so grateful that she emailed Mr. Johnston to let him know that Benny did not give up on her and that she was pleased with his support.

Way to Go Benny!

GECAC Gazette—Unit News

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Area Agency on Aging

- *HomePLUS* held flu shot clinics at Schmid Towers and Friendship Apartments. Approximately 100 residents received their immunizations. GECAC Aging staffed an Outreach table at both events.
- HomePLUS, in partnership with management at Schmid Towers and Friendship Apartments, held *Meet Your Neighbor* activities in the Community Rooms of both buildings. Residents were able to sing karaoke, watch a movie, eat pizza and play in a pool tournament. Approximately 45 residents in each building participated in the events.
- Aging received extra lottery dollars in their budget as a special fund to open up services to seniors who have been on a waitlist. We are grateful for those that advocated for these funds.
- Aging Advisory Team elected the same slate of officers for 2014: Debbie Wisinski, Chairperson; John Johnston, Vice Chair and Jeannie Graham, Secretary. Debbie will remain on the GECAC Board based on our bi-laws.
- *The Quality Assurance (QMET)* team from DPW audited our Aging Waiver Program for compliances on November 6th. The exit interview was very positive. They said they were able to get this review done in one day because our files and policies were in great order.

*Representative—**Lori Jordan-Jewell***

Education, Training & Community Services

GECAC will be a *Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)* site again this year and we are looking for staff volunteers to prepare tax returns. Volunteers must be available once a week for three hours during our regularly scheduled work hours or volunteer 1-2 hours per week to work on drop off returns. If you are interested please inform your supervisor and your supervisor will give your name to **Stephanie Long**. If you have any questions call **Stephanie Long** at ext. 595 or **Nicole Johnson** at ext. 406.

*Representative—**Linda Konetsky***

Workforce Development Services

Adult Education is experiencing a rush of students as the year ends before the test changes in January. The GECAC Adult Learning Center is submitting an application to become a *PearsonVue lab* in order to be able to serve as an Erie County testing site for the actual test.

*Representative—**Barb Kroh***

Child Development

Head Start is still enrolling income eligible 3 and 4 year old children. Please refer parents to call **Lisa Bryant** at ext. 662. *Pre-K Counts* is also enrolling. Please refer parents to call **Maria Candelaria** at ext. 548.

*Representative—**Mae Roberts***

Executive/ Finance

- Elections for the GECAC *Activities Association Divisional Representatives* are in January. Now is the time to step forward and help to strengthen our organization.
- The Activities Association provides many benefits for all employees each year. If you can not be a divisional representative please volunteer to help with the many fun actives run by the association. ***Volunteer today so that we can make next year even better than this year !***

*Representatives—**Linda DeFelice/ Vivian McCullum***

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Welcome New Employees!

Helen Gouldsmith
ETCS/Transportation
Bus Driver

Julian Goulet
Head Start
Family and Community Services
Program Manager

Jami Mattson
Head Start
Teacher

Kristine Dimitrovski
Head Start
Family and Community Services
Assistant Program Manager

GECAC Activities Association

- Winner of the *Tailgate Raffle Basket* was Diane Presogna. Congratulations!
- Winners of the *Activities Fall $50 Gift Card Giveaway* are: Aging– Ray Maholtz, ETCS–Frank Dellecurti, Exec/Finance–Dot Kerner, WD–Maureen Kennedy, CD–Cheri Blarr. Congratulations!
- *GECAC's Christmas Party* will be held on Saturday, December 21st at the Avalon Hotel from 6 pm to 10 pm.
  Deadline to purchase tickets will be Friday, December 6th. NO EXCEPTIONS!! See your division representative to purchase your tickets.

  $5 for Activities Members + 1 adult guest $35 for non-activities employees + 1 adult guest
- *Free Room at the Avalon Raffle*. Tickets are $2 for 1, $5 for 3 and $10 for 20. Tickets will be on sale December 2nd – 13th. Drawing will be held on the 13th @ 1pm. See your rep to purchase tickets.
- *Raffle Basket Tickets for the Christmas Party* will be on sale starting December 2nd up until the drawing at the party. You do not need to be present to win. Tickets are $2 for 1 and $5 for 3. Raffle Baskets are: Basket of Cheer (liquor basket), Money Tree, and a Movie Night basket.
- *50/50's for the Christmas Party* will be on sale starting December 2nd up until the drawing at the party. You do not have to be present to win. Tickets are $2 for 1 and $5 for 3.

*Representative—**Jennifer Yauger, President***