



DRAGON EMPOWERMENT CENTER

Community Learning & Resource Center

Issue 3- January-February 2019

A project providing services and programs to students, families, and the community so that all can be successful in school and life.

The DEC

NEWS AND UPDATES

Donations To Fund Vision Services Pilot Providing Vision For The Future!



The Strong Foundations, Successful Futures Advisory Group is working to ensure that all children have the chance to come to school ready-to-learn. This includes providing support services to remove barriers that prevent children/families from being successful. Through our community engagement project we have identified that obtaining health services is often an issue. When stakeholders were surveyed about health services they wanted to be offered within the school, "Having Their Eyes Checked" and "Getting Glasses" rated among the highest in the results. School data also showed that vision services were frequently one of the health services which students/families may be unable to follow-through on.

To ensure that students obtain the needed services and have their vision issues corrected, the Dragon Empowerment Center (DEC-Community Learning Center) is exploring ways to provide professional vision appointments and the purchase of glasses for students of the Ashtabula Area City School. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, as well as the Wells Fargo Advisors, we have been fortunate to receive donations to specifically fund a Vision Services pilot project. The monies are used to assist students and their families cover the costs to get a vision examination and purchase a pair of glasses.

Working together with the Ashtabula Walmart Vision Center, DEC was able to provide our first student with new glasses, second grader Kaylyn! Kaylyn was ecstatic, "At first my friends didn't recognize me, and I would take my glasses off for a second so they knew who I was. I really like them, and now I can see the board better." Her father was pleased with the entire process and said, "Kaylyn wears her glasses all the time. She only takes them off when she's sleeping!"

As we move forward, we hope to establish onsite vision services at the DEC. For more information about the Vision Services pilot, or to help support the program, contact Jen Bunnell, 440-855-0081.



Stay Up To Date With What's Going On

Find us on  Facebook Search...@foundationsfutures
<https://www.facebook.com/foundationsfutures>

Contact Info

To reach Jen Bunnell- 440-855-0081
jbunnell@accaa.org

Mail to:
SFSF- CLRC
PO Box 2610
Ashtabula, OH 44005-2610



The Strong Foundations, Successful Futures- Community Learning & Resource Center Advisory Group consists of: Ashtabula County Community Action Agency, Community Counseling Center, LEADERSHIP Ashtabula County, and the Ashtabula Area City Schools.

Community Volunteers Connect With Students

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program- RSVP- is one of the largest volunteer networks in the nation for people 55 and over. Senior Corps volunteers utilize their talents and experience and commit their time in service to the community. The DEC is pleased to partner with RSVP; starting this month RSVP volunteers will begin to help AACS students with tutoring in reading and math.



In addition to RSVP, other community volunteers will be assisting with tutoring as well. All volunteers will be matched with the age group and subject matter that will meet their interest and skills, they will be background checked, and oriented to the school and it's basic policies. The teachers will provide them with the grade appropriate lessons/ concepts/materials that align with their classwork and help the children build their competency. If you would like to become a volunteer, contact Jen at 440-855-0081.



Clothing Bank at the DEC

The DEC now has a Clothing Bank with clothes in a variety of sizes. The clothing items are available to students if they happen to spill something on themselves, they are need of clothes that fit better, or they have no clothes due to homelessness. The clothes are sorted for boys and girls by size. To get clothing- students, teachers or family members can stop by the DEC. Or call Jen, the DEC Community Resource Coordinator to arrange for items. There is no charge and services are confidential.



Gently used clothing size 4T and up, as well as new socks and underwear, can be donated to the Clothing Bank. We are still in need of winter coats. Many thanks to the teachers who have donated the majority of clothes so far. If you have items to donate you can bring them to the DEC, Huron Primary Rm 132 between the hours of 7:30 am- 3:00 pm., or call Jen at 440-855-0081

Presenting DEC at Keys To Community

On February 11, 2019 as part of the 2-1-1 Ashtabula County -Keys To Community event at Kent State, Jen presented information about DEC and the Strong Foundations, Successful Futures- Community Learning & Resource Center. Approximately 35 community, social and human service representatives learned about the project.



Help Us Build Successful Futures- Opportunities To Get Involved!

- Participate in our surveys,
- Be a part of our Program Planning meetings,
- Conduct or sponsor a program or activity,
- Allow your child to be part of events, activities & services,
- Volunteer,
- Donate items or money if you are able, and...
- Spread the Word!!!

We would love your help! Just contact Jen at 440-855-0081.

Donations can be made payable to:

ACCAA
PO Box 2610
Ashtabula, OH 44005-2610
Memo- SFSF-CLRC