



*Positive Opportunities
for New London Youth*

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Volume 2, Issue 6, June , 2011

YOUTH AFFAIRS NEWS *by Ellen Kleckner*

Youth Affairs participants and staff displayed their New London pride as they marched in the Week of Hope Parade. The Teen Center young people wore their yellow Teens in Action t-shirts, and staff paraded along with other Fish Tales Tugs and Sails partners.

Plans have been made to celebrate the first year of the Youth Center and Teen Center, with a field trip for the Youth Center and a Students Afternoon Out event for the Teen Center. Another culminating Teen Center feature is the arts exhibit at City Hall Gallery, facilitated through a Youth Affairs partnership with TSETSE Gallery. Please support the Teen Center participants by viewing their artwork, during the month of June. Youth Affairs extends its thanks to the collaborators that have contributed to the Teen Center successes: Boys & Girls Club of SECT, Connecticut Storytelling Center, Heavy Hitters, Writer's Block Ink, F.R.E.S.H., Kente Cultural Center, TSETSE Gallery, Connecticut College's Office of Volunteers for Community Service, and Mitchell College, New London Public Schools Meal Program. As these programs conclude for the 2010/2011 school year, we have already moved actively into the application and coordination phase for the summer teen employment program.

NEW LONDON YOUTH AFFAIRS

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On behalf of the youth and families served through Youth Affairs, appreciation is extended to the Shea Trust, Corinne G. Levin Education Fund, and Water Authority. Accordingly, the Shea Trust will support after school series and vacation week programs. The Corinne G. Levin funding will contribute towards early childhood multidisciplinary series for pre-kindergarten children and their parents/caregivers. The Water Authority monies will be applied to aquatic field trip experiences for young children and their families, as well as to maritime focused spring programs for school aged youth.

Summer Program Directory

[http://](http://www.newlondonclicks.org/2011summerYPrograms.pdf)

www.newlondonclicks.org/2011summerYPrograms.pdf

Upcoming in July

Ocean Beach Play Group— Mondays
10:30

Play Troupe— Tuesdays 10:00 AM
Martin Ctr.

Gross Motor Fun -Wednesdays 10:00
AM Jennings Family Resource Ctr.

Jennings Play Group- Fridays 10:00
AM—Jennings Family Resource Ctr.

EARLY CHILDHOOD & FAMILY *by Tina Salcedo*

We are very happy to celebrate spring during the month of May. During Play Troupe we have been reading stories about flowers, rainbows, and bugs . We created beautiful rainbows, flower gardens with bugs flying around everywhere. We even painted using fly swatters. On Mondays we have been playing and making new friends at the Harbor Family Resource Center . Now that the weather is turning warmer we have been meeting on Wednesdays at Toby May Playground Park. We had a few foggy days but that did not stop us from playing and having a great time. We also held playgroup at the new Caulkins Park playground and the new Greens Harbor Beach playground. It was such a nice day the kids wanted to go put their toes in at the beach. We enjoyed another field trip to the Children's Museum in Niantic. The children enjoyed playing outside with the bubbles, the water table and the big tree house. Of course the boat inside was a big hit as well. We went on a field trip to the Mystic Aquarium and had a great time seeing the beluga whales, the penguins, the fish, and the kids really loved hearing the great big frogs in the pond. We were happy to have our friends from TVCCA Home-based Head Start Ms. Robin's class and Alexis Home Day Care, join us on the trip as well. Les Julian came and performed for children and their families at the Autism morning at the Children's Museum of SECT. The children enjoyed singing with Les, playing their shakers and getting a turn to play the percussion rain stick.

We are looking forward to a great summer of fun with our families. We will be meeting for playgroups at Ocean Beach Park , running Play Troupe for our first summer, having a Gross Motor Fun Group, Creative Dance and a playgroup at Jennings Family Resource Center. Call for more details.



EARLY CHILDHOOD & FAMILY cont. by Tina Salcedo

Whale's Tales Book Bank



Borders concluded their book drive for us and collected over 2,000 books. They also collected countless stuffed animals that we will use in our Book Buddy reading program. We thank Borders for their continual support of the Whale's Tales Book Bank. This month we also received over 500 books in donations from individuals. We distributed over 500 books out to the community, including the Regional Multicultural Magnet School, who will give these books to incoming kindergarten families. Whale's Tales also was able to purchase copies of The Kissing Hand, which will be given to every kindergarten child who registers for

kindergarten with New London Public Schools. We continue to support the Children's Museum of SECT and provide books for their Autism program. The children are able to pick a book to take as they are leaving the Museum. This often helps the transition out of the Museum go much smoother for families. We also marched in the Hope Week Parade in support of Fish Tales Tugs and Sails Festival.

School Age by Blythe Henry

We have had two very busy months of activities. We finished our photography class in April. The youth spent time learning to download their pictures from the cameras as well how to take an interesting photo. They used light, space and framing to create the works. We hope they continue with what they have learned. Sewing classes were a great success! All of the youth were able to thread the machine and complete small projects on their own by the end of the classes. Each youth finished two projects over the course of six weeks. One of our students was also able to learn how to use her own sewing machine, which she had not been able to use until this class. We wish her many great projects. There were many thread jams, empty bobbins and not sew (hahaha) straight lines, but many great times. We would like to create more complicated projects in the future. April Vacation was a wonderful week of outdoor adventures. We were able to spend the time with the staff from The Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center. They showed the youth many interesting processes that happen in a wooded area. They went pond dipping, looking for the smallest of creatures. They hiked and listened for many of the different birds that inhabit the woods and fields. They went through the marshes looking for anything they could (mostly mud). They created beautiful art works with what they could find in nature. Most of all, they enjoyed great times with each other. Youth Affairs' involvement in the afterschool New London Public Schools 21st Century program has been working well, learning about energy in and energy out. Over the year they have learned about the food groups, how to read a label and many other nutrition facts. The most important thing has been focusing on balance. We ended the year with a knowledge challenge; each youth answered a question to receive a prize of a vegetable plant or a Frisbee. We hope whatever they chose will remind them to balance good food choices with exercise. Our crocheting class worked on learning new skills and creating projects they could give as gifts. They were able to each finish at least one project each. They made bookmarks, gloves, bows for their hair, and washcloths for family members. Our cooking classes always have a large turnout. The youth were able to make many healthy and economical meals for themselves and family members. We have a family that plans to continue to have their youth make meals at home on Thursdays. We hope this will catch on with other families. We have an energetic group working on the space in front of the Martin Center. They spent the first day weeding the area. Next they did some planting. They put down many wheel barrels of mulch (this was hard work) that they moved from the FRESH gardens in the back of the Martin Center. They were able to bring plants home to continue with their new gardening skills. We hope this garden blooms and grows all summer with the hard work that was put in this spring. Well this portion ends with the school year, but we can't wait to see you all next fall! Have safe and wonderful summer, Ms. Blythe.

TEEN EMPLOYMENT *by Joelle Garrett*

WORK FOR IT/ JOB SUPPORT CENTER/ COMPUTER LAB

Cool Directions participants attended several sessions during the after school Teen Center to work on their work readiness courses on line in the computer lab. Work readiness courses selected include Interviewing, Dealing with Difficult People, and Reasons Why Diversity Matters. Once these core courses have been completed, each license allowed for the teens to select from a variety of additional course areas that include career exploration and planning. Two final banking workshops were held for teens at New London High School. We concluded our Banking 101 series with a game of Who Wants to Be A Millionaire. Teens responded to questions using life lines, etc. as they tested their money management skill knowledge. Later in the month, a group of over 25 teens were able to participate in the Healthcare Careers Day held at L&M Hospital. There they attended several sessions on a variety of healthcare careers. They learned about several different



nursing environments and heard from over a dozen professionals, who spoke about their careers at L&M Hospital. Hundreds of job applicants have been coming in over the past month for interviews for a place on our summer job waiting list. Applicants will be contacted in the next few weeks to determine their availability and job preferences.

HIGH SCHOOL *-Teens In Action-* *by Cindy Alvarez*



For the last month of Teen Center and Youth Center, we continued to partner with local agencies to bring our youth programs and services to improve their skills. Our Bike Repair Shop was a success; the teens learned how to repair and paint bicycles. Our cooking class was among the favorites; each week our youth learn how to cook delicious and healthy meals in an hour or less. Thank you to

Kente Cultural Center for their amazing Drumming Class, The Tsetse Art Gallery for their art project series, showcasing New London. The teens' creations will be displayed at City Hall for a month. Thank you to F.R.E.S.H. New London and Heavy Hitters for their support and contribution with their programs. We finished up the Teen Center with a mini Student's Night Out; we had a live DJ, Prizes, Pizza and Competitions. For the Youth Center we took a field trip to Family Bowling in Waterford. The youth tried to score a perfect 10 pin, while enjoying pizza and music. Summer is finally here, remember to stay active and healthy. See you all again in the fall!!! On May 6 th, New London Youth Affairs collaborated with Families United and the New London Outreach Office to recognize outstanding youth for their community service and leadership amongst their peers . Specific youth were nominated through various New London agencies. Mayor Martin Olsen proclaimed the 1st Friday of May as annual Youth Service Day, and he presented certificates of recognition to the 20 youth. After the ceremony, youth and families enjoyed a barbeque and entertainment at Connecticut College.





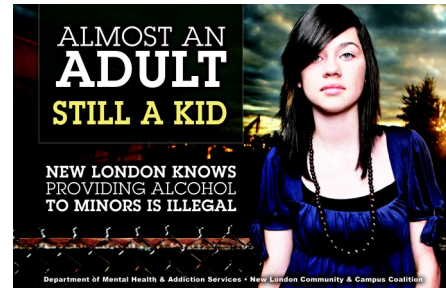
"Preventing underage drinking and other substance abuse and providing other positive choices."

By Tony Mollica

New London Community & Campus Coalition (NLCCC) mission;

"To engage all stakeholders in the New London community to combat risky behaviors by promoting healthy, vibrant, and productive lifestyles for our young people."

The posters shown below are now available for free at the NLCCC office on the first floor of the Martin Center. They are all in both English and Spanish. Please come in and take what you need and place them around your facility.



The two ads above are targeting New London adults not to buy or give alcohol to minors (anyone under 21 years of age). The two below are meant to demonstrate how alcohol can affect a teen's life.



Upcoming events / projects:

- The NLCCC is working on a new prevention website with the address of www.nlsafeteens.org. The website will be worked on all summer with a final unveiling set for early fall 2011. If you go to that address now, you will be automatically linked to the www.newlondonclicks.org community website.
- On June 7, the 2011 Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) Class graduated 13 members. Graduation was held at the New London Senior Center from 6-8 p.m.
- The next NLCCC meeting is scheduled on June 15, 2011, at 11:30 a.m. at the Martin Center, 120 Broad Street, New London. We will be having a review of the past years' accomplishments and making decisions on future meetings' day and time.

The NLCCC welcomes everyone to help ensure New London youth have the best opportunities we can provide, and make sure that today's teens make choices that can positively affect the rest of their lives. Please call, 860-442-1497 for information. Everyone is welcome to come and participate in our coalition to improve the quality of life in New London and support New London youth. We encourage faith-based organizations and organizations currently working with NL youth to attend and collaborate with the NLCCC.