

## Putting Grant Money to Work



As the new school year began, the **Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center** began implementing its recently awarded Prevent Child Abuse Delaware grant with a series of activities for students and staff. Center Deputy Director, Brandon Furrowh, says the grant will be used “to promote knowledge of protective factors to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect, and provide family-centered activities free of charge to the families.” Brandon reports that the program “began with a workshop on child abuse, followed by a family movie night.”



Hilltop Executive Director, Michelle Williams, explains that movie night was held at the Wilmington Riverfront. “Two Penn Cinemas...were rented out for *Hilltop Movie Night*. Children, families, and staff enjoyed watching *Inside Out 2*, a story about emotions and trying to navigate a new city, house, and school. It was a great night out! Everyone in attendance.” Michelle continues, “received popcorn and a drink. The kids are still referencing the movie when expressing their feelings.”

The activities didn’t end there. Brandon says the movies were followed by a BBQ! And there’s still more to come. “Families and employees are looking forward to the final event, a Hilltop Family Reunion to be held on Saturday, September 21.” We’ll have a report on that event in our November article.

From its inception, the Hilltop Center has had as its motto, “Education is the Key.” To that end,



Brandon reports that the entire Hilltop staff continues to look for ways to “introduce our youth to learning opportunities and support families through programming.” Therefore, Brandon says, this fall, “Hilltop’s ECAP (Early Childhood Assistance Program) will participate in its annual trip to Milburn Orchards and receive an in-person presentation of a children’s book by the author herself.” In addition, “our Youth Services program will have the opportunity to participate in an 8-week cooking course led by Chef Angell Morris (pictured here). We are excited,” Brandon points out, “to close out the calendar year with these events, activities, and more.” It does indeed sound like an exciting year.

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