

Great Hilltop News!



The students at the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center successfully navigated through the first 2 months of the new school year by acclimating to new classrooms and teachers, celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day, and even made it past the ghosts and goblins of Halloween! But the big news came from our Executive Director, Michelle Williams. For several years the Hilltop Center has dreamed of expanding its facilities to serve more children and offer more and varied activities for our students. That dream came closer to reality when Michelle says she "received a call from Governor John Carney on September 30th. He let me know that he will be giving Hilltop \$2 million for the expansion project. The funds will come from the America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). He let me know that I will be receiving a call from someone in his office soon." This grant comes on the heels of the Delaware General Assembly voting to grant the Center \$1million through the Legislature's Reinvestment Fund. We still have a long way to go to fulfill our dream, but this is very welcome news! Our thanks to the Governor and Delaware General Assembly for these substantial grants.

Elsewhere at Hilltop, Center Deputy Director Brandon Furrowh, reports that parents, children, staff, and community members took part in the final event under the Prevent Child Abuse Delaware grant. "This event included interactive games, barbequed hotdogs, hamburgers, and chicken, along with beverages, desserts, and salads. Our DJ played tunes that engaged youth and adults alike in dancing, and card/board games were placed at every table for family enjoyment. The group," Brandon says, "left with the opportunity to fill out evaluations of the program in its entirety, of which they all expressed a desire to continue family engagement activities."



We look forward to future events to help our friends prevent child abuse.

Eric F. Mease
Member, Board of Directors
Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center