

Audits and Bowling and Books...Oh My!

With the pending close of the school year, the students and staff of the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center are gearing up for yearend assessments and audits. But there's still lots of fun happening at the Center.

Youth Services Coordinator, Teresa Allen, tells us that one of the audits was around reading skills. Teresa is happy to report that, over the year, most of the children improved those skills!



“During our process, we first administered a pre-assessment test in the fall to measure their reading level and to give each child a starting point. Each child was then given a reading log at the beginning of each month with their reading level scores recorded at the top. The goal,” according to Teresa, “was to have each child read at least 5 books or more each month on their reading level or higher. Every book read was recorded on their reading log. At the end of the month all logs were collected and tracked. This process was done from October (pre-assessment test) through April when the Post Assessment tests were given. The post testing showed some improvement for all children who participated.”

Congratulations to all students!

Meanwhile, Center Executive Director, Michelle Williams, says government audits are underway.

“They observed lunch in the infant and toddler 1 classrooms. They also interviewed Mr. Ron (cook), inspected the food pantry and reviewed documents. The desk review will occur via Microsoft Teams in the near future.”

In addition, Michelle says the “State Funded Pre-K also conducted an unannounced visit on April 29th. They reviewed 20 files and interviewed me. They asked questions pertaining to eligibility, recruitment, selection, waiting lists, inclusion in classrooms and staff credentials.”

So, you may ask, where's the fun in any of that? Well, according to Center Deputy Director, Brandon Furrowh, the Center recently held its first father-son bowling tournament.

“The Bowling Buddies event was designed to shine a light on father-son relationships while, incorporating into the fun, the urgency to build up our young boys through positive communication and modeling. The 28 participants who attended,” Brandon explains, “received t-shirts, swag bags, food, and more. The three winners (one per allotted age group) walked away with a \$100 gift card to

either Footlocker, Main Event, or Cinemark Movies. The verbal feedback for the event expressed gratitude, fun, and a desire to continue events such as this.”



Finally, Brandon reports that the Center staff also celebrated outstanding foster grandparents.

“Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center, as an organization, was acknowledged and celebrated for being a faithful participating organization for over 53 years. The AmeriCorps Seniors Delaware Foster

Grandparents Program recognized Hilltop’s foster grandparents for their contribution to the center. The event included speeches, awards, lunch, pictures, and dancing.” And Brandon had his picture taken with Governor Matt Meyer!

Eric F. Mease

Member, Board of Directors

Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center