

Haverstraw Center News

Volume 2, Issue 1

February 2014



Village of Haverstraw/Haverstraw Center

HOPE Worldwide Day of Service honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Special points of interest:

- **HVERSTRAW CENTER offers many programs free of charge (See schedule)**
- **COUNSELING for help with: alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, family problems, boy-friends/girlfriends, school**
- **RECREATION and home-work help**
- **FAMILY ACTIVITIES**

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HOPE worldwide is an international charity that changes lives by harnessing the compassion and commitment of dedicated staff and volunteers to deliver sustainable, high-impact, community based services to the poor and needy in more than 70 countries across the world. In the United States, a pool of 33,000 volunteers form 86 chapters supporting HOPE worldwide's international work and serve together in their local communities.

In Rockland and Orange Counties, the Hudson Valley Region of the NYC Metro Chapter is comprised of approximately 100 volunteers, many of whom are members and friends of the Hudson Valley Region of the NYC Church of Christ. Local service programs include planning and facilitating the "Saturday Academy", an after-school type program for

students of Rockland BOCES, serving at Soup Angels in Nyack and working with local partners to plan and facilitate events during our National Days of Service. For more information, visit hopeww.org/chapters.

On Saturday morning, January 18th, the volunteers that represent the lower Hudson Valley Region began arriving at the Haverstraw Center to embark on their day of service to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The snow was lightly falling as the crowd of about 160 people gathered in the gymnasium in answer to Dr. King's "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'"

On the third Monday in January, Americans across the country celebrate the national holiday honoring the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. During his

lifetime, Dr. King sought to forge the common ground on which people from all walks of life could join together as equals to address important community issues. Service, he realized, was the great equalizer. As he stated, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve."

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YOUTHFEST 2014

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2014
AT SUNY ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE FIELDHOUSE, 11: AM TO 4:00 PM

Sponsored by Rockland Community College, Rockland County Youth Bureau, Hudson Valley Boy Scout Council, New Horizons Baton Twirleers, Rockland 21st Century Collaborative for Children and Youth, AM/PM Consulting, Liberty Mutual, H&S Sales Consultants, Inc., M-Tech Printing and Nyack Hospital, Rockland County YouthFest is in its sixteenth year! Last year's exhibitors saw an audience of more than 5,000 parents, grandparents and children. Free parking, free admission and a great deal of information distributed. There are performances, demonstrations and an opportunity to see what the county has to offer in youth services.



MONTHLY YOUTH CELEBRATION/CAUGHT BEING GOOD

The Monthly Youth Celebration took place on Wednesday January 29th. This event includes recognition of those youth who have been "Caught Being Good" at the Haverstraw Center as well as birthdays celebrated in December and January. Frankie Vazquez and Pete Fata prepared tuna salad sandwiches for the youth with a generous donation from the Nyack Homeless Project. Youth volunteers helped to serve and clean up.

This month's celebration focused on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his legacy of hope for all people: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." The youth created their own books writing their dreams of a future that includes an end to bullying and disparity.

Every monthly youth celebration also acknowledges those youth who were "Caught Being Good" at the Center. Each time a youth is nomi-

nated for "Caught Being Good", his/her name is placed in the hat for a drawing of prizes. Most months the prizes are \$10.00 gift certificates to McDonald's in hopes that the youth will make healthy choices when they redeem their prize. Sometimes the prize is a donation from a local business and some months the Town of Haverstraw makes a generous donation of tickets to one of their Youth Board sponsored trips.

Those who received certificates this month were:

December 12

Franklin Lugo, Kenny Nazario, Chelani Rivera, Chris Sand, Kiarra Toussaint

January 9

Kaylah Blackwell, Ariel Encarnacion, Liliana Gomez, Cristi Gonzalez, Edison Henriquez, Allison Hernandez, Edwendy Lopez, Wesslin Mendez, Matt Miceus, Kenny Nazario, Kenneth Nazario, Keanu Olivares, Ansel Pichardo, Kiara Polanco, Lesley Ramos, Laura Ravel, Chelani Rivera, Gabriel

Rivera, Chris Sand, Amaya Santiago, Darleny Taveras, Bryan Thomas, Darlene Villegas

January 16

Mariyah Cousar, Chris Davis, Liliana Gomez, Ariel Infante, Valenti Mendez, Wesslin Mendez, Kenny Nazario, Kenneth Nazario, Ansel Pichardo, Kiara Polanco, Jamel Roché, Joseph Salto, Sherley Taveras, Andy Veras, Tattianna Wallace

January 23

Carmen Gil, Jorny Gomez, Mekei McCrae, Jade Roché, Cindy Vargas, Anai Wilson

Happy Birthday to

JANUARY

Marion E. Breland

Nikki Merriman

Jeanmarie Zubko



"WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR OTHERS?" (continued from page 1)

Terri Loso, National Director of Chapter Relations coordinated a day of service with the Haverstraw Center, Hope worldwide Hudson Valley Region, and the Haverstraw Fire Department. Volunteers gathered at 8:45 am in the Center gym and were treated to amazing refreshments including home-made muffins, French toast casserole, black bean soup and other sumptuous treats prepared by volunteer Angie Sanchez of *Drop By Gourmet*. Costco and Rockland Bakery donated food items and all were greatly appreciated. Short

video clips were shown, the mascot for the Rockland County Baseball team, the "Boulder Bird" made a grand entrance, and newly elected County Executive Ed Day spoke. Mayor Michael Kohut, Center staff Tim Sanders and Peggy Koval, and Woodie King, of Hope worldwide added their comments. Captain Tom Price of Rescue Hook & Ladder Co. #1 shared tips about fire safety and the youth were dismissed to see the fire trucks. Shari Stopler and Christine Wagner from the County of Rockland Department of Health provided

information about the importance of CO detectors. Volunteers then went out into the community amidst the blowing snowstorm to give information about fire prevention and to sign residents up for a free CO or smoke detector provided by the County of Rockland Department of Health. With approximately 160 in attendance, this Day of Service was a great success in answer to "What are you doing for others?"





George Joseph Rusciano Memorial Award

At a recent staff meeting, the George Joseph Rusciano memorial plaque was presented to Marion E. Breland, director of the Haverstraw Center. Mr. Rusciano, father to Marion, passed away October 12, 2012. The Center staff wanted to create a lasting memorial of this great man while at the same time honoring the work that both father and daughter have contributed to the community.

Mr. Rusciano graduated from NYU with a bache-

lor's degree in architecture, attending as a part-time student for twelve years while working to support his parents and family. He served his country as a naval architect during World War II working for Gibbs and Cox, eventually moving to Rockland County and becoming a prominent architect in private practice for fifty years.

Born in the Bronx on September 3, 1914 to immigrant parents, Mr. Rusciano led a happy exist-

tence. He read books in his treehouse, played baseball with his numerous cousins and brother, and enjoyed his mother's incredible home cooking.

Mr. Rusciano was a well rounded individual and a highly respected member of the community. Any North Rockland junior who regularly attends activities at the Haverstraw Center and emulates many of those same qualities is eligible to apply for this award.

Haverstraw Collaborative Highlights

The Haverstraw Collaborative consists of agencies who meet the first Wednesday of every month from 12:00 noon until 2:00 PM to discuss issues and ideas that affect the North Rockland Community and the Village of Haverstraw in particular. The Haverstraw Collaborative was founded in 2001 for the purpose of all community-based organizations serving the children, youth, elders, adults and families of Haverstraw to meet monthly in a spirit of non-partisanship and cooperation which is re-

flected in the Mission Statement.

The January meeting took place on the second Wednesday of the month due to the New Year holiday. The agenda included an inspirational reading of quotes and sayings attributed to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A power point presentation was given by Ron Figueroa and Kiera Pollack representing the Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force for Rockland County. Dina Nejman spoke about the Rockland County Office for the Aging "Senior Awareness

Day" called the "Power of Age, A Conference Celebrating RC Seniors". The North Rockland Central School District and the Rockland Teacher's Center helped the Collaborative to better understand the federally mandated "Common Core Curriculum" and the implications thereof.

A discussion about Unity in the Community and reports from the Collaborative Subcommittees on Immigration Advocacy, Drug Prevention, Food & Nutrition, Parental Involvement and Teen Pregnancy followed.

At the conclusion of the meeting, agencies circulated flyers and/or information about upcoming events.

The next meeting is scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month, February 5, 2014 from 12:00 noon until 2:00 PM.

Please call 845.429.5731 x 32 to confirm your attendance.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

The Senior/Senior Prom Committee meeting will meet at the Haverstraw Center on February 12, 2014 at 1:00 pm. Bring a bag lunch.

Tanya's Teen Group Visits John Jay College

"DESIRE. ASPIRE. INSPIRE."

Tanya Soto's group of twelve high school teenagers enjoyed a trip ON January 18, 2014 to John Jay College of Criminal Justice in NYC to participate in ASPIRA's Annual Youth Conference. ASPIRA's mission is "to foster the social ad-

vancement of the Latino community by supporting its youth in pursuit of educational excellence through leadership development activities and programs that emphasize commitment to the community." This program included workshops dealing with cultural iden-

tity, a college fair, and a talent showcase. The youth were treated to free breakfast and lunch and chose from workshops ranging from political or community issues, health, gender, and financial aid and career preparedness.

SAVE THE DATE!

FREE! FREE! FREE!

- Dinner with your family
- Babysitting for younger siblings
- Parent/Guardian sessions
- Youth sessions
- Information on communication, peer pressure, expectations, clearer rules

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAM

This 6-week program will provide you with the tools that will put you and your family on the path towards making your dreams come true.

Haverstraw Center
50 West Broad Street
Behind the Knights of Columbus

FREE!	Thursdays
For youth ages	2/27/2014–
10-14 and	4/3/2014
their family	6:00 PM–8:30 PM

To register, call:
845.429.5731

Looking ahead:

VAASA Training sponsored by C.A.N.D.L.E.
 February 10, 2014

Unity in the Community
 Moved to Spring Recess Week

Senior/Senior Prom
 May 2, 2014

Watch for details in upcoming newsletter



Village of Haverstraw/Haverstraw Center

50 West Broad Street
Haverstraw, NY 10927

Phone: 845.429.5731
Fax: 845.429.5796
E-mail: CommunityCenter@VoHny.com

The Haverstraw Center Mission Statement

The Haverstraw Center serves all residents of the Village of Haverstraw by providing and hosting high-quality, comprehensive services for youth, families, adults and elders, promoting the health, safety, and well-being of community residents of all ages, and raising the quality of life for all people of our diverse community in a spirit of non-partisanship and cooperation.



Save the Date

YouthFest
at RCC
3/30/14

See story on Page 2

We're on the WEB!
http://www.voh-ny.com/dept_youth.htm

February Special Events and Notable Days

- 2/1 National Freedom Day
- 2/1 Teen Night Grades 8—12
- 2/2 Ground Hog Day
- 2/5 Haverstraw Collaborative NOON
- 2/5 FREE HIV Testing
- 2/7 Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony
- 2/11 Make a Friend Day
- 2/12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/14 National Organ Donor Day
- 2/17 Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 2/17 President's Day *CENTER CLOSED*
- 2/20 Cherry Pie Day
- 2/21 FREE HIV Testing
- 2/22 Washington's Birthday
- 2/23 Winter Olympics ends
- 2/26 Monthly Youth Celebration
- 2/27 Strengthening Families Program begins



FEBRUARY CELEBRATES:

- American Heart Month
- Black History Month
- Great American Pie Month
- National Cherry Month
- Children of Alcoholics:
(week of February 10—16)



Haverstraw Center Schedule/February

Schedule Subject to Change

Location	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY/ SUNDAY
Computer Room	Homework Help 3:00 PM—6:00 PM	Homework Help 3:00 PM—7:00 PM	Homework Help 3:00 PM—7:00 PM	Homework Help 3:00 PM—7:00 PM	Homework Help 3:00 PM—6:00 PM	
Game Room	3:00 PM—6:00 PM	3:00 PM—7:00 PM	3:00 PM—7:00 PM	3:00 PM—7:00 PM	3:00 PM—6:00 PM	
Multi-purpose Room	Homework Help 3:00 PM—6:00 PM Back to Basics 7:00 PM—9:30 PM	Homework Help 3:00 PM—6:00 PM Beach Body 6:30 PM-8:00 PM	Homework Help 3:00 PM—6:00 PM Literacy Zone 8:00 PM—9:30 PM	Homework Help 3:00 PM—6:00 PM Family Connections 6:00 PM—8:00 PM	Homework Help 3:00 PM—6:00 PM Boys' Council 8-11 years old 4:30 PM-5:30 PM Beach Body 6:30 PM-8:00 PM	SATURDAY Literacy Volunteers 10:00 AM—1:00 PM
Gymnasium	St. Agatha Fitness 9-11AM; 12-2 PM Youth Basketball 3:00 PM—6:00 PM Adult Basketball 7:00 PM—10:00 PM	St. Agatha Fitness 9-11AM; 12-2 PM Youth Basketball 3:00 PM—6:00 PM JUMP 6:00 PM—7:30 PM St. Peter's CYO 7:30PM-9:00PM	St. Agatha Fitness 9-11AM College basketball 12-2 PM Youth Basketball 3:00 PM—6:00 PM NR Soccer 6:00 PM—7:30 PM 35 & Over Basketball 8:00 PM—10:00 PM	St. Agatha Fitness 9-11 AM; 12-2 PM Youth Basketball 3:00 PM—6:00 PM Rudy's Basketball 7:00 PM—9:00 PM	St. Agatha Fitness 9-11AM College Basketball 12-2 PM Youth Basketball 3:00 PM—6:00 PM	SATURDAY Sharp Shooting Academy Co-ed Middle School Youth 9:00 AM—12 noon Steve's Basketball 12 noon—2:30 PM NRSA 2:30 PM—4:00 PM NRSA 4:30 PM—6:00 PM SUNDAY HPAL Basketball 8:00 AM—7:00 PM Jason's Basketball 7:00 PM—8:30 PM
Conference Room	Open Arms Women's Meeting 5:30 PM—6:30 PM	Clinical Staff Meeting 12:00 noon—2:00 PM	RCDOH Health Insurance Assistance 3:00 PM—6:00 PM	Staff Meeting 12:00 noon—2:00 PM	Salvation Army 12 noon—4:00 PM	
Group Room	Girl Scouts 3:30PM-4:45PM (Girls ages 8—15) Project SHIFT: Anger Management 5:00 PM—6:30 PM Literacy Zone 6:30 PM—9:30 PM	Girls Club 3:30PM—4:45 PM Grades 4, 5, & 6 Project SHIFT 5:00 PM—7:00 PM	Girls Club 3:30PM-4:45PM Grades 7 & 8 Boys Life Skills 11-14 3:15 PM—4:45 PM Project S.H.I.F.T. 6:00PM—8:00PM	High School Teen Group 2:30 PM—4:00 PM	Safe Haven Committee Meeting 10:00 AM	
Art Room	Art with George 3:30 PM—5:30 PM	Art with George 3:30 PM—5:30 PM	Art with George 3:30 PM—5:30 PM	It's In The Bag 4:00 PM—6:00 PM		
Kitchen						
Counseling Room	By Appointment	By Appointment	By Appointment	By Appointment	By Appointment	
Other		Smoker's Aftercare	High School Extension Life Skills 11:00 AM	Butts Out Open Arms 4:00 PM		