

S P R I N G 2 0 1 7

The

# Front Line

Family Self-Sufficiency News

*Community Building driven by Economic Empowerment*



## Inside!

Community.....  
Youth Spotlight.....  
Health & Wellness.....  
Employment.....  
Social Services.....  
Choice Neighborhood.....  
Jobs Plus.....  
And *more*.....

## Local employer comes to GDPM...

The Family Self-Sufficiency program was established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development with the goal to help residents connect with local services to improve their education and employment and to put them on a path to economic self-sufficiency and success in the workplace. This April the FSS department will bring **Sugar Creek**, a leading manufacturer in the West Dayton region to DeSoto Bass for a unique employment event. Sugar Creek is a diversified food manufacturer with six facilities in Ohio, Indiana and Kansas and has been an integral part of the communities since 1966. For more information and to RSVP please contact Ta'Lisha Elliott (937) 910-5333 or Visa Lee (937) 910-5413.

## Family Self-Sufficiency Team

### Service Coordinators

Barbara Branigan  
Shawanda Smith  
Yolanda Drake

### FSS Coordinators

Kathy Heard  
Ta'Lisha Elliott  
Visa Lee

Davon Miller  
FSS Supervisor  
(937) 910-5400  
(937) 910-5300 fax





## Beds Delivered!

This winter Public Housing FSS Coordinator Visa Lee (pictured) was able to broker services through the non-profit Secret Smiles and have new beds and a baby crib delivered by Morris Furniture for a family in need. Secret Smile's mission is to help families overcome hardships and the focus is simply "We Make Kids Smile...by providing beds for those who do not have them."

If you would like to learn more about Secret Smiles please contact FSS Coordinator Visa Lee at (937) 910-5413.



## Community Service Opportunity!

It is almost that time of year! The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) ensures that children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session. This summer, the USDA plans to serve more than 200 million free meals to children 18 years and under at approved SFSP sites.

In order to provide this service at your GDPM public housing site, dedicated volunteers are required to help administer the program. The commitment is approximately 1.5 hours per day Monday through Friday and this time would also count towards required community service hours! If you would like to learn more about how to volunteer this summer please contact your FSS service coordinator or site manager.

### FSS Service Coordinators

Barbara Branigan (937) 910-5301

Shawanda Smith (937) 910-5418



# Youth Spotlight

The Youth Spotlight is a new addition to the FSS Newsletter that seeks to highlight young men and women who are standouts in their communities displaying leadership, academic prowess, and a dedication to community service. In our Spring edition we are recognizing **Mr. Darrin Henderson**.

Darrin is a Freshman student athlete at Dunbar High School where he plays point guard for the Wolverine's freshman team and maintains a 3.5 GPA. Darrin along with his two brothers and mother Linda stay active in the community and often volunteer at FSS events hosted at DeSoto Bass by Ms. Barbara Branigan of the FSS Department. One of Darrin's coaches and mentors at Dunbar Mr. Marvan Gordon brought Darrin to the attention of FSS Supervisor Davon Miller and on a chilly March afternoon Mr. Miller had the pleasure to sit down with Mr. Henderson after school in the DeSoto Bass community room to discover what drives this young man to succeed.

Mr. Miller: What is your favorite subject in school?

Darrin: "Science. I like to do science projects. In my last project I learned that hot sauce would clean a penny."

MM: What is your dream college to attend?

Darrin: "UCLA", but I just want to attend a school where I can play basketball and get a good education"

MM: Xbox or Playstation?

Darrin: *Smiles* "Xbox, NBA 2K"

MM: What is needed in this community?

Darrin: "Residents need to communicate better and there needs to be less violence"



MM: How do you display leadership on the basketball court?

Darrin: "It's about leading by example, staying focused and keeping my teammates focused on what we have to do in practice and in the game."

MM: What does being a student athlete mean to you?

Darrin: "It means balancing school work with basketball. I focus on my school work first and I don't even think about basketball until my work is done"

MM: Do you get satisfaction from doing community service?

Darrin: "Yes. Helping others makes me feel good and I believe what goes around comes around. You never know when you will need help yourself."

Look for more great things from this young leader in the future.

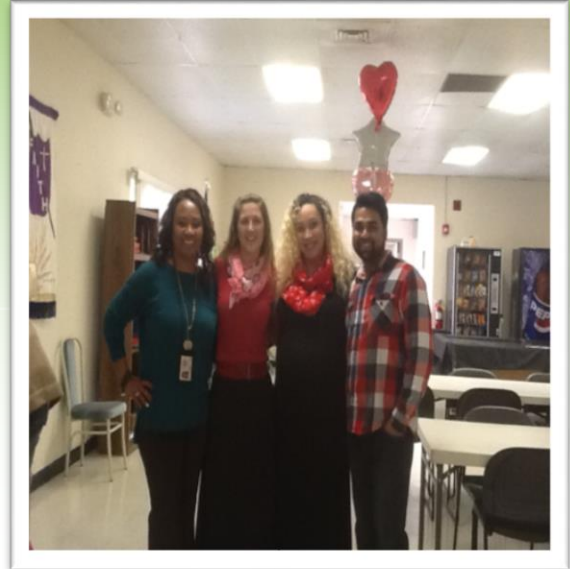
"The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow." –Nelson Mandela

## Mobile Grocery Store Comes to GDPM

### Joyvin Mobile Grocery

The FSS department is happy to bring Joyvin Mobile Grocery to GDPM.

Joyvin Mobile Grocery (pictured with service coordinator Yolanda Drake) is a mobile grocer that sells products just like a grocery store! They accept cash, credit and debit cards as well as SNAP. JMG will deliver fresh groceries and domestic commodities to the residents of Hallmark-Meridian, Metropolitan and Grand Senior Living beginning in March with plans to expand to more GDPM sites throughout the year. JMG is an exciting story of 3 young entrepreneurs who put their minds and resources together to address a void in the community. As talks are continuous, JMG has skin in the game and will help efforts to address the “food desert” in West Dayton at GDPM sites and beyond. *For more information on Joyvin contact FSS service coordinator Yolanda Drake at (937) 910-5302.*



### Miami Valley Works

Congratulations to FSS participant Mr. John Lewis who recently completed the Miami Valley Works program at Goodwill Easter Seals of Miami Valley. Mr. Lewis enrolled in the Family Self-Sufficiency program at GDPM in 2012 and completed his bachelor's degree in 2016. Now he is looking to put that degree to use.

Miami Valley Works offers a holistic approach to eliminating poverty in the Miami Valley by providing job readiness training and ongoing employment coaching, support services, counseling, and long-term job retention follow-up and is a community partner of the Family Self-Sufficiency program. We are happy to report that Mr. Lewis already has 3 interviews lined up and will be eligible for the FSS escrow account once his new employment begins!



For more information on the Miami Valley Works program contact Visa Lee at (937) 910-54131 or Kathy Heard at (937) 910-5419

## What's in Your View?

With the start of a new year FSS Service Coordinator Barbara Branigan had the idea to host a vision board event at DeSoto Bass. Creating a vision board of her own is something Ms. Branigan has done over the years that helps her to think about new goals and have a visual reminder of those goals throughout the year. The event was well received by participants and was an opportunity to work on goal setting and putting a plan together to achieve those goals.



## **The Ohio State Extension Returns!**

The Ohio State Extension will be back in 2017 teaching us all about healthy eating and nutrition. Come out and prepare meals with their certified staff. This program works to provide participants with the tools and resources to improve their overall health and wellness and in turn, improve their families' wellbeing.

To learn more contact Barbara Branigan at (937) 910-5301

## **Follow us on Facebook to keep up with the latest FSS news!**

*Greater Dayton Premier Management Family Self-Sufficiency Program*

...Do you live in one of the 5 Choice Neighborhoods of Pineview, Edgemont, Miami Chapel, Madden Hills, or Lakeview?

*Have your voice heard and log onto the FSS Facebook page to take the Choice Neighborhood survey.*

...**Dayton Jobs Plus** begins April 3<sup>rd</sup>! If you are a resident of DeSoto Bass or Hilltop Homes contact Terrance Woodruff at (937) 910-7651 to learn how the Jobs Plus Earned Income Disregard works to "freeze" your rent while you obtain new employment!

## **HIV and Hep C Testing**

The Sisterline 2 Project through Wright State University will be making it's way to GDPM public housing sites in 2017. The purpose of the project is to expand substance abuse treatment and HIV/Hep C prevention intervention services for African American women (ages 18 years and older) in Montgomery County, OH. This program is expected to increase access to culturally appropriate trauma-informed care and mental health treatment in order to empower women to increase self-efficacy to engage in safer sex practices and make healthier life choices.

For more information and to qualify for a gift card contact Shawanda Smith at (937) 910-5418 to learn when Sisterline 2 will be near you.