

Karen's Corner



Our agency is a champion for the health and well-being of West Virginia's families, and we join the nation in recognizing September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. According to the National Cancer Institute, this year more than 10,000 cases will be diagnosed among children from birth to 14 years, making cancer the leading cause of death from disease among children in the United States.

While there are more than 12 types of childhood cancer and several more sub-types, all of which need different treatment, most diagnoses include leukemias and brain and central nervous system cancer. The American Cancer Society suggests that early detection is possible with close monitoring and regular medical checkups. Potential signs and symptoms parents can look for in children include an unusual lump or swelling, unexplained paleness and loss of energy, easy bruising, frequent headaches (often with vomiting), sudden eye or vision changes or sudden unexplained weight loss.

Unlike adult cancers, childhood cancers are usually not connected to lifestyle or environmental risk factors. Although preventive measures cannot be taken to protect our most vulnerable population from childhood cancers, we can take steps to reduce their risk of getting certain types of cancer later in life. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests the following:

- Stay safe in the sun: Seek shade, cover up and apply sunscreen. Just a few sunburns can increase your child's risk of skin cancer later in life.
- Get recommended vaccinations: The Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine protects against the types of HPV that most commonly cause cervical, anal, oropharyngeal, and other types of cancers.
- Have discussions about the dangers of smoking: Nearly 9 out of 10 smokers start by age 18. It is important that children understand the detrimental health effects, including cancer, caused by cigarettes, chewing tobacco and vaping.

The color gold and gold ribbons are used to raise awareness of childhood cancer. Throughout the month of September, let's wear gold and work together to increase awareness of and to show support for the many children and families affected by childhood cancer. While the battle is daunting, we may find inspiration in the words of Winston Churchill: "never, never, never give up."

DHHR Purchasing Office Globally Recognized for Excellence for Third Consecutive Year

DHHR Cabinet Secretary Karen L. Bowling recently announced the Department's Purchasing Office received the 2016 Sterling Award. This prestigious recognition is presented to agencies that have achieved the Universal Public Purchasing Certification Council's (UPPCC) agency certification for three years in a row.

"This is a tremendous honor not only for the purchasing unit and Director Bryan Rosen, but for our entire department," Bowling said. "I am grateful for these exceptional employees who continuously demonstrate what it means to be a part of team DHHR with their hard work and dedication."



DHHR Purchasing Team: (back) David Darr; Althea Greenhowe; Kim DeBolt; Roberta Wagner, CPPO, CPPB, CPIM; Robert Price, CPPO, CPPB; Heather White; (front) Mary Farley; Theresa Dorsey; Susie Teel, CPPB; Jo Bess, CPPB; and Bryan Rosen, CPPB.

The Sterling Award is issued to agencies who receive UPPCC Certification for three consecutive years. Certification by **continues**

DHHR Purchasing, cont.

UPPCC requires staff members to meet established criteria consisting of public purchasing experience, education/training and successful completion of a rigorous examination.

In addition to being West Virginia's leader in this arena, the DHHR Office of Purchasing is one of fewer than 90 agencies worldwide holding UPPCC Agency Sterling Award Certification.

The designation of Certified Public Purchasing Officers (CPPO), Certified Professional Public Buyers (CPPB), and Certified in Production and Inventory Management (CPIM) demonstrate an individual's high standard and competency with government procurement and the ability to obtain maximum value for the taxpayer's dollar.

The UPPCC is an international governing body that has certified more than 10,000 professionals around the world.

D-SNAP Food Benefits Help Thousands of Flood-Affected Residents

DHHR's Bureau for Children and Families Commissioner Nancy Exline recently announced that the Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP) program provided \$4,661,482 in nutrition assistance benefits to thousands of people in the 12 declared disaster counties of Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Roane, Summers and Webster. The D-SNAP program was held from July 25-31, 2016.

"These benefits were helpful to those who would not normally qualify for SNAP assistance, as the devastating flooding resulted in unexpected expenses for so many individuals and families," said Exline. "D-SNAP was an opportunity for some flood-impacted West Virginians, including current SNAP recipients, to receive support to regain a supply of nutritional foods during this difficult time."

D-SNAP benefits assisted 4,766 individuals that were not current SNAP recipients, by issuing benefits totaling \$812,537, for an average payment of \$395. The program also assisted 43,744 individuals currently receiving SNAP, with supplemental payments totaling \$3,848,945.

SNAP is 100 percent federally funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and offers nutrition assistance to eligible, low-income individuals and families. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Hopemont Hospital Hosts 21st Annual Geri-Olympics Games



On August 4, 2016, Hopemont Hospital hosted the 21st Annual Geri-Olympics North with 87 participants from eight nursing facilities. With volunteer assistance, the athletes competed in events including basketball, bean bag toss, sticky ball toss, bowling, wheelchair course race, horseshoes and moon ball.

The opening ceremonies began with the presentation of flags, singing of the National Anthem by retired Hopemont RN Leona Rodeheaver and remarks from County Commissioner Dave Price and Administrator Mark Nesland. Throughout the day, volunteers and residents enjoyed a picnic-style lunch and had the opportunity to enjoy past and new friendships.

The games culminated with an awards ceremony, including first, second and third place medals for each event as well as door prizes for the winners. All participants received a certificate, a ribbon and a medal.

"We are thankful for all of the different departments uniting to make this such a special and successful event," said Hopemont Activities Director Michelle Shay. "We are very proud of the outcome, and believe it shows what a hard-working and dedicated group we have here at Hopemont Hospital."

In addition to Hopemont, the Geri-Olympics athletes included residents from Oakland Nursing and Rehab, Appalachian Crossroads, Dennett Road Manor, The Lighthouse, Pine Ridge, Piney Valley and Sundale.

