

COMMUNITY

Check out that Bus...



Check out that bus...

by Wally G. Espada

Local Cleveland Community Celebrity is our very own Alumni.

While attending a local event in our community, this past summer, Wally Espada, Business Community Liaison, (BCL) at Cleveland Job Corps Center, (CJCC) was approached by a “bubbly”, friendly, and very energetic lady, who was quick and very proud to identify herself as a Job Corps alumni. Establishing an immediate connection with Espada.

Margo Hudson (Genus) tells her story.



Local Celebrity our Cleveland Job Corps Alumni

Without delay. Relating to Espada, that she left her home and school, in Chicago, when she was in the 9th grade. Escaping a life of abuse and heartache, looking for a better life, she enrolled and attended our Cleveland Job Corps (CJCC) education and training programs. Following in her sisters' footsteps, that had attended Job Corps, before she did, she says, that she enrolled in the Indiana Job Corps Center first. Then convinced by the same sister, she transferred to our CJCC, when we were housed on Carnegie. And graduated back in 1979. 43 years ago. With

two trades. Obtaining dual certifications as Nurse Assistant and Dietary Aide. As she repeats that she is so proud of her Job Corps foundation. Because, she says, “it gave her an anchored foundation and the discipline, upon which to enter into the workforce arena, and succeed in maintaining herself through out the years following her graduation from Job Corps”.

Fast forward and Meet Margo Hudson (Genus), today, she is “a Literacy Champion, Tutor, Ambassador, and Motivational speaker” as announced by Seeds of Literacy at www.seedsofliteracy.org/margohudson Seeds of Literacy helped Hudson reach her goals. She encourages all to Read more at www.seedsofliteracy.org

An interesting detail, germane to Margo, is that she signs her emails “With Delight”. Espada agrees with Seeds of Literacy in that, “this phrase sums up her personality: “Sunny, Hopeful, Positive, and Energetic”.

This article continues to say that, “she became an ambassador for the hope that adult education and Literacy bring”. After obtaining her GED as a student at Seeds for Literacy.

Fast forward again to 12/14/22. Hudson, was featured on Channel 3 WKYC

in the 5:00 p.m. local news. She is one busy lady. As her image is featured on 4 busses that will circulate throughout our Cleveland communities. As an ambassador and representing the city wide initiative Cleveland READS, which is an initiative to get Clevelanders reading. The City's goal is to encourage us all “to read one million books or minutes in 2023”.

Now check out that Bus... in case you missed it:

@ http://www.linkedin.com/posts/seedsof-literacy_clevelandreads-adultliteracy-literacy-activity-7008472421439606784-pPHI

This amazingly amazing, humble woman, and community celebrity, Margo Hudson says to Espada, that she “found solace, education and training at our Cleveland Job Corps Center, more than 4 decades ago. Margo also states and believes, that her “experience at CJCC and the training received, improved her quality of life, because it “prepared her to get started in life”. Learning. And hasn't stopped learning yet.

To our current new students, and our entire community, Margo wants to say:

Don't be afraid to try something new and stick with that. Never give up”. “It isn't easy” she says. But, it is possible”. she affirms.

C.E Orr Ice Arena Host Skating With First Responders



by Christine Vazquez

Saturday, December 10th, Euclid Recreation in partnership with Euclid Police Department, Euclid Fire Department and Richmond Heights Police Department hosted their second “Skating with First Responders” at C.E Orr Ice Arena. Police and Firefighters from both Euclid and Richmond Heights laced up their skates for some well-deserved fun with the community.

Euclid Mayor Kirsten Holzheimer Gail, Richmond Heights Mayor Kim Thomas and even some of the city's K-9 units joined in on the fun and visited with families at the ice arena. Admission and skate rental were both free for the event, and skaters of all ages and skill levels enjoyed some time on the ice



sharing a few laughs with the first responders who serve their city.

“A lot of skaters had a nice time. We had some first-time skaters, too,” said Richmond Heights Police Chief Thomas Wetzels, who watched one of his own officers navigate the rink for his very first time on ice skates.

The C.E. Orr Ice area, managed by Euclid Recreation Program Administrator Hannah Zavorek, plays host to hockey tournaments, ice skating lessons for both children and adults, and open ice-skating sessions throughout the season. For more information about the ice arena, or to view their current schedule, visit cityofeuclid.com or the Euclid Recreation Facebook page.

Euclid Preparatory School Hosts Coat Giveaway



by Christine Vazquez

Euclid Preparatory School, a K-8 tuition-free community school located at 23001 Euclid Avenue, hosted a free coat giveaway over the holiday season offering warm winter coats to students, their families and community members in need.

Over 100 coats in toddler to adult sizes were donated by Operation Warm to this event which was spearheaded by Euclid Prep's Family and Community Liaison Charlea Skillern. “I knew that we had some families in need of coats, so I called up some organizations I had worked with previously and I asked them to donate,” said Skillern who initiated the giveaway after receiving several phone calls from families looking for winter items. “I love my job, I love my students and this kind of community work

is my passion. If I can help someone, I'm going to.”

Families who visited the coat giveaway left with new, washable, fleece-lined winter coats produced by Operation Warm: a national non-profit that manufactures coats and shoes for children in need. “We believe that every child, regardless of circumstance, deserves to feel the warmth, confidence and hope that comes from the gift of something new,” says Operation Warm. Their more-than-a-coat philosophy explains that giving a child a new coat not only keeps them warm but boosts their confidence giving them the tools they need to succeed socially- at school and beyond. Children receiving coats at Euclid Prep had a variety of coat colors and sizes to choose from and coats were tried on at the event to ensure the perfect fit.

This coat giveaway event was just one of many community outreach events hosted by Euclid Prep, who recently hosted a community Thanksgiving dinner, turkey giveaway, virtual Storytime with the Grinch, a Toys for Tots toy giveaway and more. For more information on Euclid Preparatory School or any of the events hosted at their Euclid campus, please visit euclidprep.org.

Step Forward's Water Assistance Program extended through 2023

by Angela Graves

Step Forward's Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) has been extended and will continue to accept applications until September 2023.

The program, which helps eligible Cuyahoga County residents pay for their water and wastewater bills, has distributed more than \$167,738 in assistance funds since January.

“The demand has been steadily increasing for water and sewer assistance, especially since some COVID relief grants have ended,” Paul Billups, the Director of Step Forward's Home Energy Assistance Program, said.

Eligible residents must be at or below 175% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines,

have a disconnection notice, have been disconnected, in the process of establishing a new service, or paying to transfer service. Residents with a current medical certificate on file with their utility are ineligible to receive LIHWAP assistance until the medical certificate protection expires.

To apply for the program, clients must schedule an appointment by calling (216) 350-8008 or online at stepforward.itfrontdesk.com. Appointments are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Walk-ins are not accepted.

Residents with scheduled appointments should submit their documentation at least three days in advance of their appointment to receive assistance at the time of appointment. Documentation can be submitted to

the Step Forward drop box at 2203 Superior Avenue, through the online scheduler linked above, emailed to Heapdocuments@stepforwardtoday.org, or submitted online at energyhelp.ohio.gov.

Clients need to provide copies of the following documents for their appointment:

- Copies of their most recent water/wastewater bills
- A list of all household members and proof of income for the last 30 days or 12 months for each member
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members
- Proof of disability (if applicable)

For more information about LIHWAP, contact (216) 350-8008.

To contact your local Energy Assistance provider, call (800)-282-0880 (hearing impaired clients may dial 711 for assistance) or visit energyhelp.ohio.gov.

Step Forward's Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program will be available to eligible residents through 2023.

HEOP | step forward
low income household water assistance program

To qualify for assistance, Cuyahoga County residents must be at or below 175% of the federal poverty guidelines, have a disconnection notice, or have been disconnected, in the process of establishing a new service or paying to transfer service. Residents with a current medical certificate on file with their utility are ineligible to receive LIHWAP assistance until the medical certificate protection expires.

To apply for the program, clients must schedule an appointment. Appointments are available Monday through Friday, 8am - 4pm.

This is a one-time benefit and is to be used in emergencies when you are faced with disconnection.

To schedule an appointment call (216) 350-8008 or schedule online...scan here.

stepforwardtoday.org [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/stepforwardtoday) [instagram](https://www.instagram.com/stepforwardtoday) [linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/stepforwardtoday)