

# Upcoming Events and Observances

## August

### Financial Literacy Class in Spanish

August 11, 2005, 6-8p.m.

PNC Bank-Biglerville Branch

Latino Services Task Force/PNC Bank

Free class for Latinos regarding money management. Call Dawn at 334-1518 or

Amelia at 339-0570.

## September

### National Latino Heritage Month

#### Kick Off Ceremony

September 16, 2005

Latino Services Task Force

For details of activities, call Dawn at 334-

1518 or Amelia at 339-0570.

## October

### Color Your Night Pink Sock Hop

October 8, 2005, Doors open at 6p.m.

The Pike Restaurant

Adams County Breast Cancer Coalition

Fundraiser dance featuring the Leatherettes

and DJ Breeze-Mon. \$40 per person. For

tickets call 334-4777.

### Breast Health Educational Dinner

October 11, 2005, 5:30p.m.

Carroll Valley Resort

Adams County Breast Cancer Coalition

Importance of a team approach for women

diagnosed with breast cancer. \$5 includes

dinner. Call Laura at 339-2018.

### Breast Health Lecture Series

October 2005

Adams County Breast Cancer Coalition

For a complete listing of the breast health

programs to be offered, call Laura at 339-

2018.

### Domestic Violence Awareness Night

October 8, 2005, 7 p.m.

Gettysburg College Ballroom

Domestic Violence Task Force/Gettysburg

College Center for Public Service

Speaker D.A. Shawn Wagner and perform-

ances by the Gettysburg Dance Center and

local soloists. Call Kathy or Lisa at 334-

0589.

### Latino Health Fair

Latino Services Task Force

For information call Dawn at 334-1518 or

Amelia at 339-0570.

### Respect, Honor and Believe in Youth/ Common Sense Sexual Responsibility for Our Kids

October 20, 2005

See article on page 3 for details.

### Lights on Afterschool

October 20, 2005, 6-8 p.m.

See article on page 3 for details.

August/September 2005

## Inaugural Apple Awards presented

The inaugural Healthy Adams County Apple Awards were presented at the quarterly task force leader's meeting on June 29 at Gettysburg Hospital. The awards were created to formally recognize the talents and dedication of the many volunteers who work tirelessly for the good of the community.

"The concept of developing a volunteer recognition program has been a vision of the membership committee for over a year," said Bill Taft, executive director, Healthy Adams County.

"The Apple Awards are our way of thanking those volunteers who truly go above and beyond the call of duty."

The awards are presented in three different categories. The Adams Apple – Leadership is given to an individual who has taken on a leadership role and whose efforts have resulted in significant contributions to the effectiveness of the task force or committee in achieving its goals. The Golden Apple – Unsung Hero is given to the person who has made a significant contribution to the work of a task force or committee but whose efforts have not been formally recognized. Lastly, the Green Apple – New Member is presented to a new member who has been on a task force or committee for at least one year and has taken on a significant role.

This year's recipients represented several different task forces. Laura Reyka, RN, women's health services, Gettysburg Hospital, received the Adams Apple for her leadership on both



Bill Taft, executive director, Healthy Adams County (left) is shown with award recipients Teresa Brereton, Green Apple – New Member and Shawn Wagner, Golden Apple – Unsung Hero. Missing from photo is Laura Reyka, recipient of the Adams Apple – Leadership.

the Adams County Breast Cancer Coalition and the Adams Coalition to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. Shawn Wagner, Adams County district attorney, was awarded the Golden Apple for his work with the Domestic Violence Task Force. The Green Apple was presented to Teresa Brereton, youth resource coordinator, SEC/CareerLink, who is a member of the Youth Providers Resource Network.

## Stalking program for police slated for October

The Police/Stop Grant Committee of the Domestic Violence Task Force are in the process of developing a stalking protocol for the county this year. The committee recently revised the domestic violence protocol and also developed a sexual assault protocol. Additionally, the District Attorney's office will present a training session on stalking for law enforcement in the county.

Stalking is a crime under the laws of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Government. The U.S. Department of Justice reported in 2001 that 1,006,970 women and 370,990 men are stalked annually and that 76% of femicide victims had been stalked.

On October 27, 2005, the stalking training program will be conducted by Sarah Caldwell, assistant district attorney in Adams County and Frank Donnelly, county detective at Gettysburg Hospital. The training will help county law enforcement better recognize stalking cases and press charges accordingly.

## Preliminary themes emerge from recent needs assessment

The 2005 Adams County Health Needs Assessment was recently received in draft form and includes results of an Adams County Behavioral Health Risk Factor Survey (2003) conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, demographic and vital statistic trending data, comparisons of local health status indicators with national Healthy People 2010 objectives, and a series of key informant interviews. Several themes have emerged from the preliminary report that impact the health status of the Adams County community.

The report updates an assessment process started in 1994, and creates a picture of current opportunities for improving health locally. The study identified six "targets of opportunity" or broad areas of need which include:

- **Environment:** Assuring Healthy, Sustainable Growth
- **Ethnic and Economic Diversity:** Eliminating Disparities in Access
- **Young Children:** Addressing their Changing Developmental Needs
- **Young Adults:** Assisting in a Healthy Transition to Adult Life
- **Middle Age:** Addressing the Increased Health Risks
- **Older Adults:** Providing Support and Assistance

The good news is that Adams County seems to be doing better than many communities across the state (and nation too). There is a growing population, which reflects lower poverty rates than Pennsylvania or the U. S., and a lower percentage of families at the extremes of highest and lowest incomes (the fewer extremes - the better the health status). Primary and preventive care services are locally available, which contribute to a lower rate of unnecessary or avoidable hospitalizations. In addition, of the 38 health status indicators where data is available and which use vital statistics to measure progress, 24 of these indicators in Adams County are below the state rate.

At the same time, however, a number of complex challenges continue, such as: access to medical, dental and mental care; vulnerable populations - such as migrant workers and families; the impact of population growth - including affordable housing, motor vehicle accidents, rising crime rates, and safety; an aging population that will increase dramatically within the next 10 years; youth at risk due to drug and alcohol use and related crime; and obesity - a growing problem for children and adults.

The bottom line for Adams County, according to this study, reflects a range of specific issues, including:

- Access barriers (including dental, transportation, medical, and affordable housing)
- Implications of continuing growth in the Latino population

- Risk behaviors of teens and young adults, but also those in their middle years
- Health disparities
- Medical and support service needs for the aging, as well as continued education and awareness, preventive services and screenings

Through the collaborative partnership of Healthy Adams County, its numerous task forces, and local agencies, tackling these issues will be a priority in bettering the health of our community.

### Message from the executive director

As promised in our last newsletter, I'd like to share a brief overview of our newest task force, the Community Re-entry Coalition (CRC). **Mission:** The CRC is a collaborative partnership of citizens and organizations dedicated to developing a coordinated, community-based system designed to prepare offenders to successfully re-enter society. **Vision:** The CRC seeks to improve public safety and reduce recidivism. **Goals:** To promote personal responsibility and accountability of offenders; to create opportunities and support for offenders in their efforts to transition into community life; to raise awareness regarding issues, challenges, and the relevance of offender preparation and successful re-integration to our local community; to educate and inform the Coalition and the community about offender re-entry needs and issues, and the community's role as stakeholders; and to advocate for a coordinated community approach to offender re-integration.

Bob Brandt has been elected the coalition's first co-chair. Bob is very actively involved as a member of the Adams County Prison Society and whose leadership is already evident. This new workgroup has established a committee structure including Halfway House, Family Group Decision-Making, Circles of Care, Resource Assessment, Steering, and Community Education.

The CRC is dedicated to positively directing and influencing a coordinated community effort to address a national trend of recidivism which sees seven out of ten offenders re-entering prisons, and we applaud their sense of commitment to make this issue a priority for the Adams County community as a whole. If you would like more information, contact Bob Brandt at [brantownb@aol.com](mailto:brantownb@aol.com), or Healthy Adams County at 337-4137.

*Bill Taft*

## National speaker to focus on teen pregnancy prevention, parenting and sexual health



Tom Klaus, executive director of FutureNet, Inc., the Iowa Network for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, Parenting and Sexual Health, will be the featured speaker at a full day of programs on October 20, 2005. Sponsored by the Adams Coalition to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, an affiliate of Healthy Adams County, the programs are structured for both professionals and parents.

The first program for parents and professionals who work with youth, entitled Respect, Honor and Believe in Youth, will be held from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Gettysburg Hotel ballroom. Klaus will share practical ways to work effectively with male youth, how to help hurting kids, and healing for youth impacted by stress. Cost for the full day program, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch, is \$45. A registration brochure is available by calling 717-339-2018.

That same evening, during the annual Lights on Afterschool event (see sidebar), Klaus will present Common Sense Sexual Responsibility for Our Kids: Lessons on Talking with Youth from a Middle-aged, Pudgy, Balding Dad. This free program will provide effective communication tools to parents on what to say to their children about sex and how to say it, as well as additional information on talking with boys. Registration is not required for this program which will be held at 7 p.m.

Klaus is a widely respected as a speaker, trainer, consultant, and writer who offers a unique blend of humor, energy, research, and practical experience. He engages and motivates thousands of youth, parents and professionals throughout the United States each year and is the author of books for adolescents and professional youth workers, numerous articles, and several curricula.

### Lights On Afterschool 2005

Second Annual Rally for Afterschool Programs in Adams County

Thursday, October 20, 2005, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Keefauver Elementary School, Gettysburg

A free evening of family fun in support of afterschool programs, including children's arts & crafts, dance, song games, music, snacks, and door prizes. Featuring a program for parents "Common Sense Sexual Responsibility for Our Kids: Lessons on Talking with Youth from a Middle-aged, Pudgy, Balding Dad", conducted by Tom Klaus. No registration required.

## Alternative Sports Park is up and running!

After three years of plans and development, the Gettysburg Alternative Sports Park officially opened on May 28, 2005. The park, youth-initiated and community-supported, is run by the Gettysburg Alternative Sports Association (GASA). GASA is made up of park users who have memberships to the park, as well as adult and youth volunteers.

The Borough of Gettysburg received a \$7,500.00 grant from the Robert C. Hoffman Charitable Endowment Trust to initiate the activities of GASA. Because the park is operated and supervised by volunteers, the grant funds a volunteer coordinator, Marya Tipton.

Tipton recruits, trains and supervises adult/youth volunteers and skate guards. Volunteers, ages 16 years and up, work in the office and/or supervise the sports park, much in the same way a life guard does at a pool.

Skate guards have additional training in CPR/first aid. Skate guards ensure that all users (skateboarders, BMX bicyclist, inline skaters) wear the appropriate protective gear. Protective gear, such as helmets, knee and elbow pads, and wrist guards, is available at the park, thanks to a generous contribution from the Adams County Safe Kids Coalition, an affiliate of Healthy Adams County.

Located at the Gettysburg Recreation Park on Long Lane in Gettysburg, the alternative sports park's summer hours are Monday – Saturday, 3-8 p.m., and Sunday, 2–6 p.m., weather permitting. Admission is free for Gettysburg Borough residents (proof of residency required), \$5 per session for other Pennsylvania residents and \$10 per session for out of state residents.

The public is encouraged to join in on the fun (all ages welcome) or drop by to watch the local skateboard and BMX enthusiasts. Information on special events and news items related to the park can be found on the GASA site at [www.gettysburgbmx.com](http://www.gettysburgbmx.com). To volunteer at the park, contact Marya Tipton at [jtipton@superpa.net](mailto:jtipton@superpa.net) or call 717-338-0300.

