



CHEER

Community Health and Empowerment through Education and Research

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

CHEER
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HELP WITH HEALTH CARE

Do you need access to medical care? Do you need help understanding how to use your healthcare coverage?

We can help you with:

- Medicaid
- Care for Kids
- Montgomery Care
- Making appointments with local health clinics
- Understanding your medical insurance and correspondence

Required Documents to Enroll in the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare):

- Valid Social ID # (Passport)
- Valid Income Tax Return
- State Department processing Agreement, Renewal Assisted Card (Green Card) - 1 and 2nd year of residence; Walk Permit Card (RADS) (1st year of residence)
- Birth Dates (1st & 2nd year)
- Proof of Residence
- State driver's license or state-issued photo ID
- Notarized letter from employer (if applicable)
- Current health insurance information such as insurance card and billing form (if applicable)
- VERIFIED CARE ID # (POSSIBLE) (if applicable)

BRING THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS TO THE APPOINTMENT

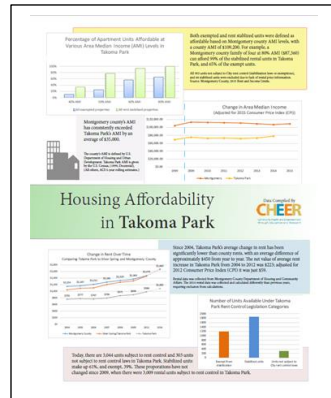
4547 Piney Branch Rd, Suite B
Silver Spring, MD 20901

Monday 12pm - 5pm
Wednesday 12pm - 5pm & 6pm
Saturday 11am - 5pm

Call us at 301-589-3633

For one-on-one assistance or counseling, come to the CHEER office on:

Housing Affordability in Takoma Park



Percentage of Apartment Units Affordable at Various Price Ranges (2000-2014) in Takoma Park

Changes in Rent Burden Levels (2000-2014) in Takoma Park

Number of Units Available for Rent (2000-2014) in Takoma Park

Number of Units Available for Rent (2000-2014) in Takoma Park

The Takoma Park Youth Collaborative presents:

“Who Wants to Work” Challenge

Program for high school students in the Takoma Park area
Every Wednesday April 6 to June 8, 2016 | 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For people ages 15 to 19 residing in Takoma Park and surrounding communities.

Please register at: www.takomayouthcollaborative.org

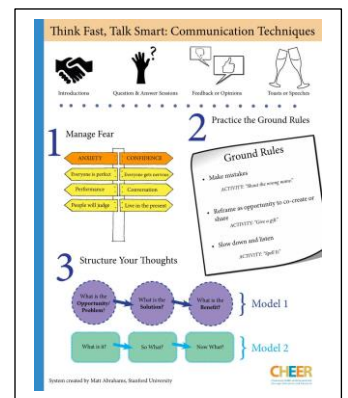
In this FREE program participants will learn:

- the skills to seek and find employment,
- to write a cover letter and resume,
- interview skills through mock interviews, and
- how to succeed in the job market.

Participants that complete the challenge will receive a special award in Takoma Park's Summer Youth Employment Program.

Location:
Arlene Rosen
Takoma Park Community Center
7300 Hight Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Think Fast, Talk Smart: Communication Techniques



1 Manage Fear

2 Practice the Ground Rules

3 Structure Your Thoughts

Model 1

Model 2

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT and HOUSING



CHEER works with YMCA's Linkages to Learning coordinators at four local elementary schools to provide support to Long Branch parents. As guests at their monthly morning coffee meetings, we learn from program participants about the conditions they face, and their needs and concerns. We share information on topics of interest to them such as renter's rights and responsibilities, the Affordable Care Act, health insurance literacy, etc., and provide resources and information that give community members tools to resolve their own issues and improve their living conditions. In 2016 we conducted 12 morning coffee sessions to 120 people.



The CHEER Community Association is designed to help tenants and condominium associations build and maintain community, and improve the quality of life in their communities. We support local tenant associations by providing peer support and leadership development, providing general operation supplies and materials, sharing information and resources, and providing opportunities for tenants to get to know each other and build relationships with each other.



CHEER advocates for residents by supporting local legislation, such as the Montgomery County's Renters Protection Bill 19-15 which passed the County Council on November 29, and facilitating Renters Protection Meetings with local tenants to discuss best practices and advocate for changes to Takoma Park's rent stabilization law to better protect tenants' interests. CHEER is a member of the Fair Development Coalition which is a grassroots advocacy coalition of community members, faith-based organizations, non-profits, businesses, educational institutions, etc. with a significant interest in the health and vitality of Long Branch and the Purple Line corridor. CHEER participated in the planning and promotion of Takoma Park's Community Conversation on Affordable Housing, was among the panel of guest speakers at the event, and prepared a fact sheet to help inform and the guide discussion of housing issues.

CHEER staff and local community leaders concluded a yearlong effort to develop a civic engagement curriculum, designed to guide groups and communities as they explore approaches to address and overcome barriers to civic engagement and participation, and reflect on the concepts of morals, ethics, and civics, and how these concepts affect our daily lives. Lesson plans are currently being developed by an education professional, and will be ready for community participants in the coming months.

HEALTH



Through CHEER's Health Referral Program, our Community Outreach Specialists connect with community members to determine their needs, share information and resources, and make healthcare appointments for those who need one. Our streamlined process makes healthcare more accessible, and helps to ensure that everyone who wants an appointment with a primary care provider can get one. In 2016 we helped 108 people who had no medical care get a primary care appointment.

CHEER became an Application Counselor Sponsoring Entity through the Maryland Health Benefits Exchange, and we continue our community outreach and health coverage enrollment for the Affordable Care Act. Three of our Community Outreach Specialists completed training as Application Counselors, and assist by enrolling people in Qualified Health Plans or Medicaid through the Maryland Health Benefits Exchange. During the first 9 months of 2016 we have helped 398 people enroll themselves/and or family members for health insurance at our office.



CHEER works with Mobile Med to provide women's health services to qualified community members. Our Community Outreach Specialists connect with qualified women in hard to reach communities, and refer them to free medical screenings and mammograms at Mobile Med, and breast feeding support, etc. through CHEER's Breast Health Program. In 2016 our Community Outreach Specialists referred 26 women for mammograms.

This past summer CHEER was a guest on Episode 16 of African Community Forum, which is a TV series that aims to inform and engage the African Immigrant community, and bridge the gap between organizations, government officials, and individuals. The topic of Episode 16 was "Health in Montgomery County", and other contributors to the discussion included Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, Montgomery County Councilmember Roger Berliner, and Rev. Adrian Ngudiankama, MPHIL., PhD.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



CHEER partnered with local youth support organizations, community organizations, and volunteers to create the Takoma Park Youth Collaborative. The Collaborative's goal is to help ensure that youth in greater Takoma Park are prepared for adulthood. This was our second year of providing work readiness, and entrepreneurship training to youth ages 14 - 21 in Takoma Park and surrounding communities. Our "Who Wants to Work Challenge" is a 10 week training program that introduces high school aged youth to the world of career preparation, including professional networking, resume writing, interviewing skills, etc. Ten young people completed the program in June 2016. Our "Youth Entrepreneurship Program" is a 10 week training program that exposes youth in the greater Takoma Park area to the basics of small business ownership, including developing a business plan, marketing, record keeping, etc. In February 2016, eleven youth completed the program by presenting their business plans, at least three youth developed their entrepreneurial ideas beyond the program, and two youth obtained jobs related to their project.



The Takoma Park Youth Collaborative participated in the City of Takoma Park's Community Conversation on Youth Success this past summer to showcase current programming and services, as well as contribute to the discussion on gaps and needs for youth.

Although there is still much to be done, we have made real progress toward achieving our youth development goals of ensuring that every young person in Takoma Park is prepared for employment, has a relationship with a caring adult, receives an education that advances fulfillment of their personal potential, and are part of the process for reaching these goals.



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communitycheer.org
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