

# TRIO

EDUCATIONAL  
OPPORTUNITY CENTERS



*I am excited to share my success story. I would like for others to know that the EOC is there for you. I did not know where to begin on this journey and Walters State Community College referred me to EOC. They took over and helped me the entire way. They got me started and I know they will help you too. They were caring and understanding in helping me reach my goals, and they were there for me from the beginning to end.*

*I want to give a special thanks to Jamie Susong for being there every step of the way. I made a lifelong friendship in the process of receiving my degree. Thanks EOC for being wonderful in helping me reach my goals. I am forever grateful.*  
-Michelle Gibson

**THANK YOU** to all Pilot employees who brought canned food items to their Summer company picnic in White Pine in June. They collected over 500 food items and donated them to Douglas-Cherokee Meals on Wheels!



**Wayne Williams, TRIO; Deborah Roberts, Monroe NSC CSA; and Sharroan Stewart, Monroe NSC Coordinator** assist with the "Back to School Bash" held in Monroe County on Thursday, July 27th. 500 school age children were assisted.

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# Review



**DOUGLAS-CHEROKEE ECONOMIC AUTHORITY, INC. AWARDED \$75,000 TO SUPPORT SENIOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE FUNDING WILL SUPPORT 75 SENIOR CORPS RSVP VOLUNTEERS**



Morristown, TN, July 18, 2017– Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority, Inc. announced today that it has received a Senior Corps RSVP grant of \$75,000 from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to support 75 RSVP volunteers serving in Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen and Jefferson Counties.

The funds were awarded as part of a Senior Corps grant competition to expand RSVP to new geographic areas. Through Douglas-Cherokee, RSVP volunteers will assist clients of the Agency's Senior Nutrition/Meals on Wheels program.

Established in 1971, RSVP engages Americans age 55 and older in citizen service that addresses the nation's most pressing challenges—everything from fighting the opioid epidemic, reducing crime and reviving cities, connecting veterans to jobs and benefits, preparing today's students for tomorrow's jobs, ensuring

seniors age independently and with dignity, and help Americans rebuild their lives following a disaster.

While serving, RSVP volunteers also improve their own lives, staying active and healthy through service. A growing body of research points to mental and physical health benefits associated with volunteering, including lower mortality rates, increased strength and energy, decreased rates of depression, and fewer physical limitations.

In 2016, more than 208,000 Senior Corps RSVP volunteers served in communities across the country. Through community and faith-based organizations, RSVP volunteers served more than 300,000 veterans, mentored more than 78,000 children, and provided independent living services to more than 797,000 older adults.

According to the annual Volunteering and Civic Life in America report by CNCS, more than 21 million Americans 55+ contributed more than 3.3 billion hours of service in their communities. Based on the Independent Sector's estimate of the average value of a volunteer hour, their collective services provide a yearly economic benefit valued at \$78 billion.

The RSVP program will begin September 1, 2017. The major focus of the program is Healthy Futures (Aging in Place). Elderly clients will receive transportation and/or telephone reassurance services. The goal is to reduce social isolation, improve the ability of elderly citizens to age in place and promote healthy futures.

Douglas-Cherokee will be working actively to recruit 75 retired seniors in Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson and Hamblen Counties. This will be an opportunity for seniors to volunteer to help seniors.

**Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority, Inc. began accepting applications Monday, July 3, 2017 for energy assistance. This marks the beginning of our fiscal year which will run through June 30, 2018. We will be accepting applications at all of the Neighborhood Service Centers. You can come by and fill out an application during the months of July, October, January, and April. You need to bring your social security cards, proof of income for the last 8 weeks, and a 12-month printout from your energy supplier. Applications can also be mailed to you by calling our main office at 423-318-6933. You can mail completed applications to DCEA-LIHEAP at PO Box 1218, Morristown, TN 37816. We look forward to serving you this year!**



# take 5

## Head Start/Early Head Start

**1.** Head Start is a Federal program for income eligible children ages 0-5 years. Head Start helps prepare children to succeed in school.

**2.** Children who attend Head Start participate in a variety of educational services. They also receive free medical and dental care, have healthy meals and snacks, and enjoy playing outdoors in a safe setting.

**3.** Through collaboration, cooperation, and communication with numerous community resources, Head Start families and children receive a comprehensive array of services. These services include but are not limited to: child and health safety, education, developmental screening, nutrition, transportation, mental health, disabilities, and family and community relationships.

**4.** The Head Start program is offered by local non-profits in almost every county in the United States. The DCEA Head Start Program was organized by Rose Hill in 1965 with the first classroom being located in Cocke County.

**5.** Early Head Start offers high-quality pre-natal, infant and toddler services to low-income families. Services include: prenatal education, childcare, parenting classes, and programs designed to support families as they work toward self-sufficiency. Early Head Start is an inclusive program, offering services for all eligible children including those with disabilities and special needs.



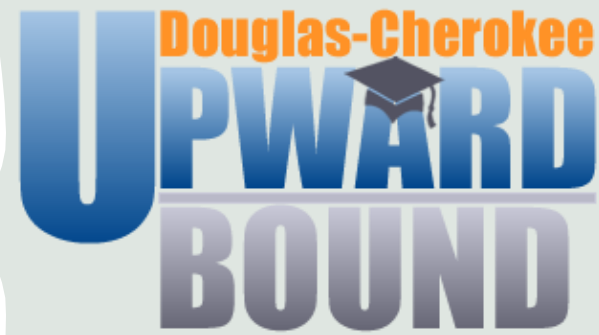
Almost everyone in town is aware of the numerous new restaurants coming to Morristown or what is currently being built in this area. Some things we may not be as aware of are our community resources. Did you know that there is a Teen Outreach Program in Morristown?

Since 2010, TOP® has been a resource for teens in the Lake-way area. Our main objective is to facilitate brighter futures for youth through better choices. TOP® is a positive youth development program that is designed to guide teens to make better choices. Currently, we serve 1,500 students in 6th-9th grades in Hamblen and Hancock counties. The schools that we serve are Hancock Middle, Hancock High, Hancock Alternative, Lincoln Heights Middle, Meadowview Middle, Miller-Boyd Alternative, and Morristown-Hamblen East High.

The TOP® curriculum is created by the Wyman Center in St. Louis, Missouri. It is implemented by 11 Facilitators in the schools during the students' related arts classes. Not only do students learn life lessons and decision-making skills, students also serve in their community through Community Service Learning projects. Examples of the many projects that have been completed by students are picnic tables and rocking chairs for use in various locations throughout the community and police "thank you" bags.

Students who participate in TOP® have the opportunity to serve as Youth Leadership Group (YLG) members and volunteer at different events. The YLG members are the voices and advocates for their peers and meet monthly. Community members serve on our Community Advisory Council (CAC) and help us identify and address issues that teens are dealing with in today's world. CAC meetings are held quarterly. Our program is always evolving to make the program better for the students. This summer, we conducted our first TOP® Survivor Camp for 6th-9th graders at Lincoln Heights Middle and Hancock County High. The camp was open to 6th-9th graders in the schools we served throughout the year. During the camp, students were divided into tribes and competed against each other in different team-building games. Various guest speakers were invited to discuss nutrition, anti-bullying, and gang prevention.

TOP® is a project of Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority, Inc. in collaboration with Hamblen County Schools funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health. If you are interested in learning more about the TOP® program, please contact the Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority, Inc. Education Center at 423-581-5420 or check us out online: [facebook.com/dceatop](https://facebook.com/dceatop) or [dceatop.org](https://dceatop.org).



Upward Bound students and staff enjoyed a trip to Busch Gardens during the summer program.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

August

**2** Grainger Co. Commodity

Distribution— St. Paul II  
Missions

**3** Bean Station Commodity  
Distribution

**8** Sevier County Commodity  
Distribution

**15** Hamblen County Commodity  
Distribution

**17** Jefferson Co. Commodity  
Distribution

**22** Cocke Co. Commodity  
Distribution

**24** Monroe Co. Commodity  
Distribution



Talent Search participant, Anna Voges of Middlesboro High School is the 2017 Educational Talent Search TASP Scholarship winner. The TASP (Tennessee Association for Special Programs) scholarship is for \$400 and Anna's application was selected from a pool of applicants from other TRIO Talent Search programs from across the state of Tennessee. Anna is the first DCEA Educational Talent Search student to be awarded this scholarship. She has been a member of Talent Search for 5 years where she actively participated in the program activities & field trips during the academic year. Anna has also participated in every DCEA Talent Search summer program throughout her middle and high school career. Anna was the Valedictorian of her graduating class and also participated in band, Key Club, National Honor Society, Beta Club, choir and played on the school golf team. Anna will be attending Eastern Kentucky University this fall, where she plans to major in Pre-Physical Therapy which she hopes will continue to lead her on the path to becoming a Physical Therapist in the future.