

SPY GUY!

Porter Head Start brings the book SPY GUY to life! The kids really got into making disguises. We spy some happy Head Start children!



Maynardville Elementary students in the Union County Afterschool Program created "Thank You" cards for the firefighters who served during the Sevier County wildfires.



Scott County-Robbins Elementary Talent Search students recently visited Wonderworks in Pigeon Forge.



Quarterly Newsletter



The DCEA

Review

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2017

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"Hale" to the Chief

Douglas-Cherokee Board of Directors selects Kay Hale as Executive Director

December 2016 marked the beginning of a new chapter for Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority, Inc. Kay Hale started her new role as Executive Director. She may have a new job title, but Kay is not new to Douglas-Cherokee.

She joined DCEA almost 35 years ago. She most recently was the Head Start/ Early Head Start Program Director for the past 8 years.

Kay grew up in West Tennessee and moved to Morristown in the early 1980s. Hale is a graduate of the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Education. She has a background in teaching and combines her education with professional experience to provide instruction to families in need.

Rene Tabor, DCEA Board Chair, said, "Kay is always willing and eager to collaborate with the other Agency and community programs and has a strong presence in the counties we serve."

Kay is spending time these first few months getting to know all of the programs offered by DCEA.





The Smoky Mountain Tennessee Reconnect Community is a local community organization dedicated to supporting every adult in the region who aspires to earn a college degree. We work to ensure each adult has access to resources and supports necessary to start and finish their college degree. This initiative is supported through TN Reconnect, the state's mission to help adults enter higher education, gain new skills, and advance in the workplace. The Tennessee Reconnect Community Network links communities like this one throughout Tennessee who are all working to help adults pursue and complete their college goals.

The Smoky Mountain Tennessee Reconnect Community also works in partnership with the Graduate! Network, a national nonprofit, with a mission of increasing the number of adults completing college. The Tennessee Reconnect Community initiative is based on the Graduate! Network's collective impact model for improving outcomes for adult learners by engaging local community organizations to provide adults with advising, support, and a personalized path to and through college.



take 5

Senior Nutrition— Meals of Wheels

1. The number of seniors in our country will grow exponentially over the coming years.
2. 1 in 6 seniors struggle with hunger.
3. Meals on Wheels can provide seniors meals for 1 year for roughly the same cost as 1 day in a hospital.
4. DCEA's Senior Nutrition program served 102,892 meals to seniors last year.

5. This March, hundreds of local Meals on Wheels programs across the country will reach out to their communities to build the support to enable them to deliver nutritious meals, friendly visits and safety checks to America's seniors all year long. By volunteering, donating or speaking out, you can ensure the seniors in your neighborhood can live more healthy, happy and independent lives at home, where they want to be.

NEW FACES

Over the past several months there have been some new faces here at DCEA.

Steve Seifried replaced Kathy Boatman as the Director of the Affordable Housing Program in June of last year. He's spent his working life in the community development and affordable housing industry since 1989, most currently as the Director of Section 8 Contract Administration at the Tennessee's housing finance agency- Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA).



Steve Seifried

Seifried has overseen the development of single and multi-housing family housing, affordable housing program development, the management of rental property, and the completion of unique capital projects. He has lived in Johnson City, Knoxville and recently Nashville...but is thankful to be back home in East Tennessee permanently. "I am so fortunate to have found a home with Douglas-Cherokee. Community Action Agencies are so important to our communities and DCEA is such an example of the great work they can accomplish."

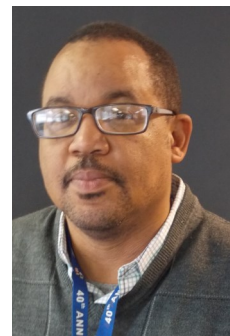
Steve is grateful for the warm reception he's received from the AHP team and from every agency staff person he has met so far. Steve, his wife Amy and their two sons live in the Fountain City area of Knoxville.

Terri Conduff is the Program Director for the new Smoky Mountain Tennessee Reconnect Community. The Smoky Mountain Reconnect Community launched services in November 2016. Terri has over 20 year's' experience in Communication, Marketing and Graphic Design. She graduated from MTSU with a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications.



Terri Conduff

Ronald McNair is the Program Director for Head Start/Early Head Start. He is from North Carolina and has worked in the Atlanta and Hilton Head area for the past 23 years. He has worked for Head Start for 15 years and has worked with families and children since the age 16. Ron says, "My greatest passion is to work with children and families." This drives him to work for Head Start. Being able to assist, support and guide an individual is a great opportunity.



Ron McNair

Tennessee's First



Nationally Certified ROMA Implementer Candidates

TN's first Nationally Certified ROMA Implementer Candidates begin Phase 3 recently. NCRI's are charged with providing information at his/her own agency to further develop understanding of what needs to be done to fully implement ROMA. Pictured below are NCRI Candidates and NCRT(Trainers). Douglas-Cherokee is proud to have three of our employees in this group. They are Kelly Reed, Maggie Sluder and Amie Whitworth.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March

- 1 EOC at Career Center in Vonore
- 2 Volunteer Housing Board of Directors' Meeting
- 9 DCEA Board of Directors' Meeting
- 10 Head Start Policy Council
- 15 EOC at Career Center in Vonore
- 20-24 March for Meals Community Champions Week
- 20 Staff Meeting
- 20 Meals on Wheels Month-Jeff City
- 22 SNP/Meals on Wheels Volunteer Drive with Sevier County Promise
- 22 EOC presentation at Morristown Housing Authority's Community Learning Center

National TRIO Day

February 25th is National TRIO Day and as a way of saying "Thank You," Scott County Upward Bound students held a Valentine's Day card drive. Students raised enough money to buy each resident of two local nursing home and rehabilitation centers a stuffed animal and them made each of them a card. Students also gathered 250 Valentines cards and delivered them to Scott Appalachian Industries and UT Hospital Oncology Department.

