

February 2024

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Open House at the Friendship House

We are so excited to announce that the Peoria Friendship House will be hosting its first ever "Open House" for our S.T.E.A.M.S. Academy. After listening to insightful feedback from the community expressing interest in knowing more about our program, we decided to give parents and guardians of our S.T.E.A.M.S students the opportunity to see our facility and classrooms, meet our teachers and staff, ask questions, and learn about the day-to-day of our after-school and day camp programs. This will be a great chance for us to connect with the community and foster a closer relationship with the families that we service everyday.

The Open House event will take place on Sunday, March 24 from 2-4PM. This is the day before our Spring Break Camp begins, in hopes it will give families a look into how their kids will be spending Spring Break with us! The Open House will only be open to families that are currently enrolled in one of our S.T.E.A.M.S Academy programs. We look forward to showing families all that we have to offer!



MONTHLY SNAPSHOT

In February we had...

- **15** new students join our After-School S.T.E.A.M.S. Academy Program
- **5** new enrollments into our Parent Mentor Program
- **2** individuals pass the U.S. Citizenship Test
- **1** successful All-Day S.T.E.A.M.S Camps

UPCOMING EVENTS



GED Prep Classes: *Tuesdays & Thursdays - 9AM-Noon*
The Peoria Friendship House is partnering with a GED Prep Program to host classes to prepare you for the GED test.

OSF Care-A-Van Mobile Health Clinic: *3/6 - 9AM-12PM*
The OSF mobile clinic will be parked outside our building to provide free walk-in health screenings, immunizations, and to assist in healthcare planning.

Immigration Project: *3/14 - 9AM-5PM*
The Immigration Project will provide assistance completing paperwork for those wishing to become permanent residents of the US, or those seeking asylum.

S.T.E.A.M.S Academy Open House: *3/24 - 2-4PM*
Families enrolled in our S.T.E.A.M.S Program can tour our facility, meet our staff, and learn more about the program.

Spring Break S.T.E.A.M.S. Camp: *3/25-4/5 - 8AM-5PM*
We will be hosting Spring Break camp for students K-8. Registration required. Please visit our website to register. Please note we will be closed 3/29 and 4/1 for Easter.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: Parent Mentor Program

The Parent Mentor Program, or "PMP," is a nonprofit program in which parent mentors, mainly Latina and Black mothers, become leaders in the community by volunteering daily in local classrooms. Parent mentors provide an extra set of eyes, ears, and hands in the classroom, while encouraging parent involvement in school and fostering a connection with the community.

The Friendship House has 35 parent mentors in its program, all of whom work in classrooms across Peoria and are supported with weekly trainings on leadership and instructional techniques for

the classroom. Mentors are taught skills that will further their future employment opportunities, while also supporting teachers and increasing student learning.

This month, our PMP staff coordinators attended a conference in Chicago where they received training in leadership and unity from the PMP organizers of Illinois. The staff will attend a larger PMP conference in April, where they will get the chance to meet fellow PMP coordinators across the state and continue to strengthen their leadership knowledge to assist our parent mentors.



S.T.E.A.M.S. Corner

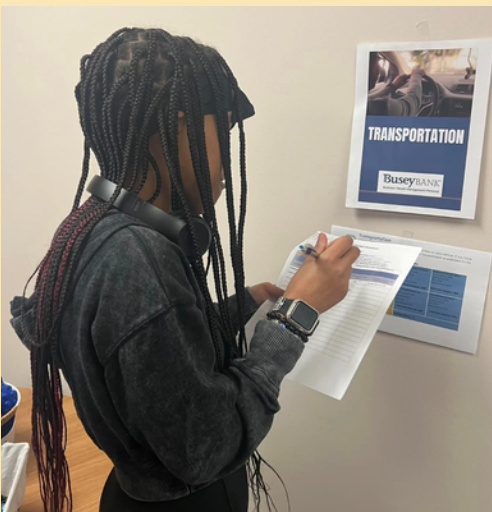
Pathway to YOUR Future is a S.T.E.A.M.S. Academy program designed to prepare and support high school students in their transition to adulthood. Our “Pathways,” as we call them, work at the Peoria Friendship House helping with our after-school and food pantry programs. This provides the Pathways with the invaluable experience of holding down a real job. It teaches them responsibility in the workplace, how to communicate with work management, the importance of time management, and how to work effectively with coworkers.

In addition to this real-world job experience, the Pathway Program aims to give students experience and certification in various fields in order to increase their post-grad job opportunities immediately out of high school. This includes CPR, Food Handling, CDL, resume building and interview skills, and more.

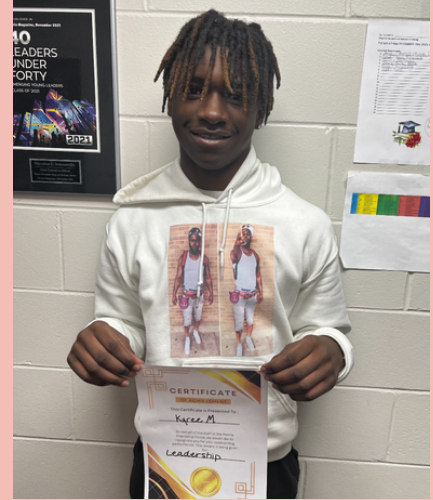


This month, our Pathway students got the opportunity to learn about an important aspect of adulthood that isn't typically taught in school: money. Pathways attended a field trip to Busey Bank, where they learned about personal finance, student loans, budgeting, and emergency savings.

The students even participated in a budgeting exercise where they were given mock life scenarios and had to calculate their expenses in vs. expenses out and see how much money they had left over for spending. This helped students recognize the responsibility that comes with adulthood, like having to pay for insurance, loans, and various bills before you can purchase things for “fun.” It also encouraged them to reflect on their priorities when it comes to spending and saving money. We plan to have more valuable field trips for our Pathways in the near future!



PATHWAY SPOTLIGHT



Kyree M.

Our Pathway spotlight this month goes to Kyree, who does an impeccable job mentoring and guiding our K-8 students in the S.T.E.A.M.S Academy After-school Program. Kyree does a fantastic job of keeping students on task and making sure they are where they are supposed to be. Everyday he comes to work displaying responsibility and maturity. Director of Pathways Amya Mitchell says, “Kyree demonstrates outstanding leadership skills and motivates students to be respectful in the classrooms.”
Congrats, Kyree!



Thank you for supporting the Peoria Friendship House of Christian Service!

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