



## ASK US ABOUT:

- Wawa Donations
- English language classes for Spanish-speaking adults
- KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy in Camden
- 9th Annual Reading Institute at Lanning Square

### Honesty Box

Is there something you'd like to see in the newsletter? Is there something we could be doing better? We look forward to your call or visit. Can't make it? We'll see you on our walk-throughs of the community!

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## Family Spotlight: Kaysie Getty



Kaysie Getty:  
Photo by Aaron Stallworth

Deemed a "Top 24 Under 24 Youth Change-Maker" by the Spark Action organization and a 2013 Outstanding Young Leader by the Foster Club, Kaysie Getty is living proof that hard work and dedication can take you far beyond your past and into a very bright future.

"I just was never the kid to not be involved," Kaysie stated as she smiled reminiscing on her childhood and teenage years, "and I've never been a person that didn't want to work."

Now a prospective 2017 Rutgers-Camden graduate, Kaysie grew up in South Jersey and spent 7 years in the foster care system. On the verge of homelessness at age 18, she was introduced to the Together Youth Shelter, a safe and supportive housing program at Center For Family Services. Kaysie was a resident in this program for about one month before a program staff introduced her to yet another program that would be better

suited to meet her needs. Kaysie became a participant in Grandslam, a transitional living program for homeless, female youth, in 2009, but was initially hesitant. "I mean I was afraid because she said Grandslam was in Camden and I had heard all of the bad things about the city. But once I got here and I saw the area, I realized that maybe it wouldn't be so bad," Kaysie explained.

Kaysie was in Grandslam for one year before graduating high school and becoming an active participant in another CFS program. In 2010 she began her stay in Camden DREAMS, which provides housing for young adults who have aged out of the foster care system or are lacking the support of a family and has been an advocate for youth ever since.

"I had heard that CFS was implementing a Youth Advisory Board (YAB) and I thought I'd get involved in that," Kaysie said. And with Kaysie, "involved" seems to

be an under-statement.

Kaysie became one of the founding members of the agency's YAB and encouraged other youth involved in CFS programs to participate. She served the YAB for four years as Vice President, then President and was able to assist in the maintenance of the YAB plot at the Cooper Sprout Garden and spread awareness through participating in walks for breast cancer, suicide prevention and AIDS.

After recently stepping down from her presidential seat with the CFS YAB, Kaysie continues to assist in overseeing the YAB, works at Rutgers University as an ambassador for the Rutgers University Statewide Youth Advisory Board and serves as the Youth Leader/Peer Advocate for Center For Family Services.

Being a CFS client-turned staff member helps Kaysie in speaking with other youth and families that seek out services. "Our staff here at CFS are supportive. We'll help you through any challenge. We practice a continuum of care and we stick with you. The end of one program is like the beginning of another to help you along in the next steps of your journey."

## A Special Promise Neighborhood Shout-Out: Dennis Evans

Promise Neighborhood would like to take the time to acknowledge PNFSC family member, Dennis Evans. Dennis is an avid Success Center participant, beginning several years ago when he entered the Clementon Family Success Center. Staff there remember him as being helpful and always ready to assist in daily Center tasks. After relocating to Camden, Dennis found even more Success Center family at the Promise Neighborhood Family Success Center. Here he remains dedicated and steadfast in his job search and continues to volunteer with us. His love for science and his easy-going, talkative nature are just a few of the characteristics that help Dennis fit right in to the PNFSC. We think that Dennis deserves this shout-out because he is working hard and through all of his accomplishments, he has not forgotten about his Success Center Family.



Dennis poses between PNFSC Director Juan (left) and Community Organizer Dumisani (right) before heading out to a job fair.

## Promise Neighborhood Resources

### ShopRite



Center For Family Services has partnered with ShopRite to bring your groceries to you! This Food Access Program will assist

families in buying groceries online and picking them up from the PNFSC or the Isabel Miller Community Center. Need help registering or ordering online? Stop by the Promise Neighborhood Family Success Center and use our FREE computer lab.

**Call 856.964.1990 x200 for more info**

### KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy

Apply now for kindergarten at KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy, located on Broadway in the Cooper Lanning neighborhood! TEAM Schools and KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy are opening FREE, high-quality, public schools, for all students. There is no cost to submit an application or to attend KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy. All students can apply, including those with special needs. Those students living in Lanning Square and Cooper Plaza get priority enrollment. Children must be five years old by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 to qualify for kindergarten. Apply now for the first 100 kindergarten seats!

**Call 856.409.0493 for more information or visit [www.teamschools.org/enroll](http://www.teamschools.org/enroll)**

### Reading Institute at Lanning Square

The 9th Annual Reading Institute at Lanning Square will run from July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 for Kindergarten through second grade students. Students will work together in small groups to reinforce basic reading skills through focused support and fun activities. They will be assigned to small group classes of eight. Classes are held from 9:00 am- 2:30 pm, Monday - Thursday. Lunch will be served each day and 100% daily attendance is expected. This program has provided students with a strong foundation and an increase in Early Literacy Skills. The Reading Institute at Lanning Square will be held at a Head Start location.

**Call 856.673.4904 to register your child**

### Quote of the

### Month:

*"As a general rule, it is more important for children to have the chance to generate different possibilities, than merely to select one possibility from among those that have been set before them."*

~Alfie Kohn

## This Month in Cooper Lanning

Are you a veteran, on active duty in the military, a member of guard or reserve components, or a military spouse? If so, attend the Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair at the Susquehanna Bank Center on May 14<sup>th</sup>. First, there will be a workshop that focuses on resume writing, tips for successfully navigating hiring fairs and military skill translation which starts at 8:30am. Then, the hiring fair begins from 10am - 2pm.

**To register visit [HiringOurHeroes.org](http://HiringOurHeroes.org).**

Get involved in your community and participate in monthly community meetings for Lanning Square West. The next meeting will be held on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the OEO building (538 South Broadway). Bring your questions, comments, and concerns about your neighborhood.

CMSRU is offering small group, English classes for adults. The maximum class size is five people. Basic and more advanced English lessons will be offered based on your interests. Classes are one hour long and will include vocabulary and conversational exercises. Classes will be held at the Promise Neighborhood Family Success Center at 580 Benson Street. Please bring a notebook and pen or pencil. We hope to see you there!

CMSRU esta ofreciendo clases de ingles para adultos. Trabajaremos en grupos pequeños, y la cantidad máxima será de cinco personas por grupo. Ofreceremos clases básicas y avanzadas, y trabajaremos en los temas que ustedes quieran aprender. Las clases duraran una hora y van a incluir vocabulario y ejercicios de conversación. Las clases serán en el Centro de Servicios para las Familias en 580 Benson St. Por favor, traigan un cuaderno y lápiz o lapicero. Esperamos su participación.

**For more info call:  
Paramas información llame al:  
856.964.1990 x110**

# Family Success Center Updates

Promise Neighborhood would like to say a special goodbye to Kelsey and Fatimah. Although they will be leaving the PN team, they are moving forward professionally in their careers. Best of luck in your future endeavors Kelsey and Fatimah! Thank you for all of your hard work and you will be missed.



Our Egg Hunt & Build-A-Bear Giveaway was a hit last month! Congrats to all the children who found eggs and won a new bear friend!



Center For Family Services has collaborated with Wawa to provide food for our families! As a way to assist us in serving our community, Wawa donates food every Tuesday morning to the PNFSC. Come in and enjoy some delicious Wawa treats!

## An invitation from...

We celebrated Earth Week in April but we live on Earth every month, every day, every minute. One way to keep the Earth Week momentum going throughout the year is to get more involved in the natural environment in which you live. Urban gardening is taking over Camden and the PNFSC is very excited to be involved in the upkeep of the gardens in Cooper Lanning. From the Mayor to the residents, it takes a team to make sure that our community is flourishing and providing a better quality of life for future generations. Your Promise Neighborhood team invites you to come out and get your hands dirty with us in Cooper Lanning! Let us know when you are free and we'd love to team up and pull some weeds, pick up some trash or plant some flowers.

## Planet Earth



Camden Mayor Dana Redd plants with resident Damon Smith at the Cooper Sprouts Garden for Earth Week 2014.

# May Family Recipe:

## Stone Fruit Salad

### What you need:

- ◆ 5 to 7 pounds of ripe stone fruit\* (i.e. nectarines, peaches, plums, apricots, cherries)
- ◆ 1/4 cup honey or agave
- ◆ 1/2 cup water
- ◆ 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- ◆ 1 tablespoon fresh lavender buds or 1/2 tablespoon dried lavender buds

*\*What is a stone fruit?*

A stone fruit (also called a drupe) is a fleshy fruit with skin and a central stone containing a

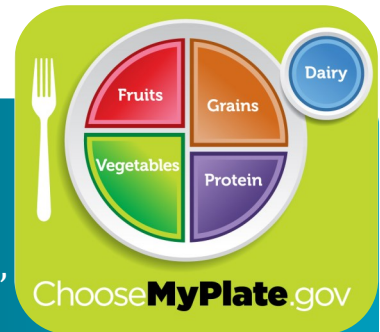


**NOTE:** Many of these ingredients can be purchased on ShopRite.com and delivered to the Promise Neighborhood Family Success Center or the Isabel Miller Community Center. Ask us how to get your groceries delivered... FREE of charge!

Call 856.964.8096  
or stop by 580 Benson Street for more info.

### What you do:

- ◆ In a small saucepan, mix honey, water and lemon juice and bring to a simmer over medium heat. Stir.
- ◆ Add lavender buds and simmer for 1-2 minutes more. Remove from heat and set aside. Let steep for at least 15 minutes.
- ◆ While syrup is steeping, wash and pit the fruit and cut into bite-sized pieces.
- ◆ Mix fruit in a large bowl and drizzle with the lemon-lavender syrup. Refrigerate for at least an hour or up to 1-2 days.
- ◆ Serve chilled and enjoy!



**The finished product!**

# What has Promise Neighborhood been up to?

- ~ **Camden Smart Initiative Earth Week celebration** - helping to promote sustainability in Cooper Lanning
- ~ **ShopRite grocery delivery** - City-wide and Cooper Lanning outreach
- ~ **Couponing workshops** - teaching our families and ShopRite participants how to use coupons to help save money
- ~ **Community Café** - bringing residents together to discuss issues facing the community
- ~ **24/7 Dads** - covering a state - certified curriculum based on the National Fatherhood Initiative
- ~ **Cure Violence Initiative** - to interrupt violence in our city
- ~ **Youth of Promise youth group** - helping our youth lead better lives through education and service
- ~ **Food donations provided by Wawa** - distributing free food and snacks to PNFSC visitors

## This month's PN events! Join us!

 <b>Promise Neighborhood Family Success Center</b> May 2014 Calendar of Events 580 Benson Street—Camden, NJ 08103 *New Number* 856-964-8096							<b>ACTIVITIES ARE FREE &amp; OPEN TO ALL</b>
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
ShopRite Delivers Here Thursdays from 4pm-6pm No delivery charge—Now accepting EBT—Order online and pick up from PNFSC—Register with us today! Prizes & rewards available for frequent shoppers				1 <b>CURSOS DE INGLÉS</b> 10:30am  <b>CRASH @ 4pm</b> Must be 18 or have parent supervision	2 <b>Career Café</b> 9am-4:30pm  <b>B2R Story Time</b> 3pm-4pm	<b>24/7 DADS</b> 6 Tuesdays 4pm-5:30pm FREE SUIT For Graduates	
4  Happy Mother's Day 	5 <b>CINCO DE MAYO</b> The History Behind the Holiday  Refreshments 3pm	6 Susquehanna Bank Mind Your Money II 4:30pm-5:30pm  24/7 Dads IV	7 PRUP Breast Cancer Awareness & Prevention  Honoring All Moms 12pm-1pm	8 <b>CURSOS DE INGLÉS</b> 10:30am  Family Dinner Cena Gratis 4pm-5:30pm	9 <b>Career Café</b> 9am-4:30pm  Submit Job Apps	10	
12 <b>Career Café</b> 9am-4:30pm  Build Your Resume	13 LADIES NIGHT Mocktail Hour ZUMBA w. Keko 4pm 24/7 Dads V	14 <b>Recipe Swap</b> 11:30am Share your favorite recipes & take some home to try 	15 <b>CURSOS DE INGLÉS</b> 10:30am  <b>Family Game Night</b> 4:30pm	16 PRUP Budgeting 1pm-2pm	17 <b>Computer Lab</b> 10am-1:30pm  <b>CURSOS DE INGLÉS</b> 10:30am-1:30pm		
18  <b>CURSOS de INGLÉS EL JUEVES y SABADO</b>	19 <b>Career Café</b> 9am-4:30pm  Job Search Online	20 "Keep It Fresh" Personal Hygiene for Men @ 3pm 24/7 Dads VI	21 License Restoration 10am	22 <b>CURSOS DE INGLÉS</b> 10:30am  Family Dinner Cena Gratis 4pm-5:30pm	23 Seasoned Citizen Social @ 1pm  Indoor Planting Activity 	24	
26 CLOSED	27 Hispanic Family Center HIV & DV 3:30pm	28 Community Café 3pm-4pm  Real Talk with Real People on Community Issues	29 <b>CURSOS DE INGLÉS</b> 10:30am  <b>Raffle Drawing @ 4 PAB Meeting @ 4:30</b> Join today	30 PRUP Banking 1pm-2pm 	31 <b>CURSOS DE INGLÉS</b> 10:30am Youth of Promise 11am-12pm Some1 Special 12:30pm-1:30pm		
<b>HOURS OF OPERATION: Mon/Wed/Fri 9am-5pm Tues/Thurs 10am-6pm Alternate Saturdays 10am-2pm</b> Call 856-964-8096 or email pnpsc@centerffs.org for more information.							



**Contact us or stop by today!**

**Promise Neighborhood Family Success Center**

580 Benson Street  
Camden, NJ 08103

Phone: 856.964.1990 x200

E-mail: [pnfsc@centerffs.org](mailto:pnfsc@centerffs.org)

**Hours of Operation:**

*Monday, Wednesday, and Friday*

9am-5pm

*Tuesday and Thursday*

10am-6pm

*Every other Saturday*

10pm-2pm

**Visit us on the web at:**  
[www.centerffs.org](http://www.centerffs.org)



**The Camden Cooper Lanning Promise Neighborhood**

Camden Cooper Lanning Promise Neighborhood (CCLPN) is an initiative led by Center For Family Services (CFS) that is designed to strengthen Camden families. This initiative covers families living in the 08103 zip code, which consists of the Cooper Plaza and Lanning Square West neighborhoods. In efforts to break down barriers and encourage working together to better the community, Cooper Plaza and Lanning Square were united and the one community is now Cooper Lanning. With funding from a 2013 Department of Education Promise Neighborhood Planning Grant and your personal consent, CCLPN Team members will be able to track your family to ensure that all residents of Cooper Lanning receive the services and resources necessary to lead healthy and successful lives.

The CCLPN Team is working with:

**The City of Camden**

**Cooper University Hospital**

**Cooper Lanning Civic Association**

**Lanning Square Residents Association**

**Rowan University at Camden**

And more than 20 other providers to guarantee that we are:

- Remaining community-based and focused on local community needs
- Maximizing educational achievements for children in Cooper Lanning
- Ensuring that each of the individual programs within the initiative is effective, fostering strong links across programs to ensure smooth transitions and continuous services for families

We ask that you, the residents of Cooper Lanning, hold us accountable to our commitments to you and your family.

**Read the CCLPN Blog at:**  
[centerffs.org/promise-neighborhood/blog](http://centerffs.org/promise-neighborhood/blog)

**Your CCLPN Team**

Nicole Sheppard  
Associate Vice President

Merilee Rutolo  
COO

Juan Rivera  
PNFSC Program Director

Jennifer Pullas  
Family Partner

Marchelle Roberts  
Program Assistant

Terrell Hurst  
Volunteer & Community Partnerships Coordinator

Patrick Andrews  
Data Manager

Veronica Mason  
Family Partner

Dumisani Bankole  
Community Organizer