COVID-19 – ESP Continues to Serve

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on our communities. Many schools, businesses, and organizations have had to close their doors and offer alternative services to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. During this time, ESP has had to adjust as well, but we have still tried to meet the needs of the families we serve.

Services have been modified but continued by our Community Services Department. Since March, we have continued to partner with Feeding the Valley Food Bank and have provided over 5,200 food boxes to families in our service area. The National Guard has been instrumental in the food distributions as they have allowed our volunteers to remain safe at home while the soldiers help pass out food.

Our Energy Assistance program has continued by accepting applications over the phone for our vulnerable population which includes seniors 65 and older. We have provided over 1,100 households with assistance in the months of March and April.

Also, thank you to everyone who donated during Georgia Gives on Giving Tuesday Now and to those who purchased a “We’re In This Together” T-Shirt during our T-shirt Fundraiser. You are all making a difference every day!
The Dream Lives: MLK Day Celebration

More than 100 ESP Team Members came together in support of *The Dream Lives: MLK Day Celebration* hosted by The Mayor’s Commission on Unity, Diversity and Prosperity. The event took place on Saturday, Jan. 18, in Downtown Columbus and included a processional from the Government Center to the Trade Center.

*The Dream Lives* is a signature event uniting the community and providing an opportunity to appropriately honor a man who gave his life in the quest for equality and prosperity for all. The *Dream Lives* event demonstrates through talent, presentations and speakers that the principles espoused by Dr. King still resonate today. ESP has been participating in the event for the last six years.

The Dream Lives: MLK Day Celebration

Enrichment Services Program received $2,000 from the Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley to assist with a summer STEAM camp for Head Start aged children transition to kindergarten. The idea for this program came about during an “On the Table” conversation. Kelvin Thomas, Director of Early Childhood and Family Services, submitted the grant application and is leading the program.

For the last three years, The Community Foundation has organized a day of community conversations called “On the Table” and ESP has participated each year as a “Super Host.” As a Community Action Agency, ESP wants to ensure that we are at the table and the voices of our customers are heard.

The summer STEAM camp, entitled “Grow Your Imagination” was scheduled to take place in June and there were plans for children to plant their own garden and participate in a science fair.

Community Foundation – On the Table Action Grant

Enrichment Services Program, Inc. was excited to be included in the Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Columbus Education Day. Leadership Columbus is a collaborative effort between the Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce and Leadership Columbus Alumni. The program provides a learning experience for existing and emerging leaders of the Columbus area. Participants are given the opportunity to develop an understanding of the opportunities, challenges and problems of Columbus and the region.

Education Day focuses on providing participants a cradle-to-career experience by visiting different schools in the Columbus area. ESP was chosen to highlight our Early Childhood Education Programs and provide a tour of our Benning Hills Child Development Center. More than 40 leaders participated in the tour, which included visits to our classrooms, playground, an agency overview, and an in-depth Q&A session.

Leadership Columbus – Education Day

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Leadership Columbus participants learn about ESP.
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ESP's CEO, Belva Dorsey, and team members from the Community Services Department visited the Georgia State Capitol on Wednesday, Feb. 5, with other Georgia Community Action Agencies in support of GCAA (Georgia Community Action Association) Day at the Capitol.

Agencies were able to set up display tables in the Capitol's rotunda to showcase the work that they are doing in the communities they serve. This event also allowed time for team members to meet with elected officials that represent their respective counties. The ESP team had meetings with State Senator Ed Harbison and Georgia House of Representatives Member Richard Smith.

More than 20 different Community Action Agencies across the state participated in this day to bring awareness to the Community Action Network and to connect with their elected officials. Governor Brian Kemp addressed the group and showed appreciation for the work that the agencies do.

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