Columbia Union Garners Four Health Awards

The Columbia Union Conference’s entities recently won four health awards at the North American Division’s (NAD) Health Summit in Florida. The division recognized organizations with outstanding participation in what they call the Adventists InStep for Life initiative. The Columbia Union was awarded for having the largest number of community gardens out of all the divisions. The union is also home to Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary School in New Market, Va.—the school with the highest miles and participation rates in the entire division. They had 739 miles of physical activity or about 175.53 percent participation.

The union’s Allegheny East Conference was recognized for having the highest participation rates, most community gardens and most physical activity miles in all the Columbia Union. A. Leah Scott (center), the conference’s Health Ministries director, is pictured receiving a second award on behalf of Pine Forge Academy with Regina Benjamin, MD, U.S. Surgeon General (right).—Story by Visitor Staff
Adventist HealthCare Receives Grant to Develop African Immigrant Health Training

The Adventist HealthCare Center on Health Disparities, based in Rockville, Md., will collaborate with a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop culturally competent tools and resources targeted toward improving the health of the region’s African immigrant community. With a $200,000 grant, the center can gain valuable resources and experience in shaping a culturally competent curriculum that will have a direct impact on African immigrants and refugees living in the community.

According to the Office of Minority Health Resource Center’s National African Immigrant Project, African immigrants are increasingly faced with chronic diseases, however, members of this community are sometimes hesitant to trust their providers or do not understand the healthcare information presented to them. The Center on Health Disparities will develop two tools to help tackle this issue: a culturally-competent curriculum for healthcare providers to utilize when providing care and support to African patients, and a health education module to teach this community to manage their health and illnesses using community resources and by addressing their specific cultural needs.—Story by Danielle Lewald

Potomac’s 16th Hispanic Evangelism Festival Draws 2,500

For the past 16 years, the Potomac Conference’s Hispanic Evangelism Festival has drawn pastors and laypeople interested in learning how to better share the gospel with the world. This year’s festival, held February 9-12 in Ocean City, Md., drew 2,500 from other conferences such as Allegheny East, Allegheny West, Chesapeake and Mountain View.

Reflecting the theme “The Sanctuary … a Place of Hope,” there was a life-sized replica of the biblical sanctuary furniture (one pictured). Click here to see more photos on the Potomac Conference website. —Photos by Tony Ventouris
Liberty Pathfinders to Represent Allegheny East Conference

The **Liberty church**’s Lightbearers Pathfinder Club from Baltimore will represent the Allegheny East Conference at the union-level of **The Pathfinder Bible Experience** competition. This will be the third of four levels of competition. The Lightbearers emerged victorious on February 4 after battling five other clubs from around the conference. The Pathfinders are studying the books of 1 Samuel and Mark, along with the introduction to **The Seventh-day Adventist Commentary** on these books.

The union level of the competition will be held March 17 in Hagerstown, Md., while the final level, which will include clubs from all across the North American Division, will be held on Sabbath, April 21, at the General Conference headquarters in Silver Spring, Md. The Liberty team is made up of eight Pathfinders: Richard Dei-Kwarteng, Joshua Lamour, Cierra McKoy, Shemar Melbourne, Mpilo Norris, Edmond Roberts, Lauren Shakes and Gladys Thuku.—*Story by Mirlene Andre*

Chesapeake Church Hosts Health Fair

Po*tomac Conference’s Chesapeake church, under the direction of Elaine Porter, Health and Temperance leader, and Suzanne Scheier, Personal Ministries leader, reached out to their community by hosting a health fair. They offered seminars on natural remedies, exercise, smoke cessation, cooking, dental, fire safety, healthy cookie tastings, as well as a free lunch that included homemade soups, stews, breads and crackers. Attendees also
took advantage of free blood pressure and glucose screenings and health advice.

In an effort to attract those in the community to the fair, Chesapeake church members went door to door for three months distributing Signs of the Times magazines, taking health surveys and inviting the community to attend the fair. Those that participated in this effort went to the same neighborhood and to the same house each time to build a relationship with their neighbors in an effort to help them with a healthier lifestyle and a closer walk with God. The church plans to make this an annual event.—Suzanne Scheier

Central Virginia Adventist Schools Unites

Approximately 111 students from Seventh-day Adventist schools in Central Virginia in grades 7-12 recently converged on Potomac Conference’s Richmond Academy (RA) for a day centering around unity. Richmond Academy and the Potomac Conference Office of Education co-sponsored this “We Are One” event to bring students from area Adventist academies together for a day of worship, fun and fellowship. In addition to Richmond Academy, three other Potomac schools took part in the event: Desmond T. Doss Junior Academy from Lynchburg, Va.; Tidewater Adventist Academy from Chesapeake, Va.; Tappahannock Junior Academy from Tappahannock, Va.; and Allegheny East Conference’s Ephesus Junior Academy from Richmond.

Each student received a commemorative “We Are One” T-shirt designed by Delphon Gordon, an RA senior and Student Association president. Proudly sporting their new shirts, the students began the day together with worship led by the RA’s Student Association. Chrizette Sullano, an RA student commented, “It was fun meeting other people. The worship and the music brought us closer to God.”—Eryn Montgomery Savoy

READ MORE
Montessori Adventure Invites Hands-on Learning

Sixteen students are attending Montessori Adventure, a new school in Parkersburg, W.Va., which opened in the fall. The pre-K to kindergarten school operates out of Parkersburg Academy and embraces the Montessori method, which is a first for the Mountain View Conference.

“Montessori education embraces the uniqueness of each child’s developmental progress,” explains Mary Beth Wiesner, teacher. “The hands-on learning materials invite the student’s curiosity and exploration while engaging his or her logical, analytical and deductive thought processing.”

Monica Zill, conference communication director, has noticed another benefit of having this school. “After years of declining enrollment and even no school at all … [Montessori Adventure] has even boosted enrollment at Parkersburg Academy.”

Audrey Sundstrom, a kindergartener, and Jozy Barton and Bryce Smith, both in pre-K, are pictured with color tablets, which help them learn their colors and boost coordination.

Mount Vernon Academy Student Wins Essay Competition

Each year the Knox County, Ohio’s National Association for the Advancement of Colored People’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Society hosts a memorial breakfast alternating at Kenyan College in Gambier and Nazarene University in Mount Vernon. For the past four years, the organizers have challenged the students in Knox County Schools to submit essays on the importance of King’s legacy. Mount Vernon Academy students have won the essay
contest three times. This year Jordan Price, Mount Vernon Academy student, won the award. Price wrote in her essay, “We are all God’s children, so we should stop pretending that one race, religion or ethnicity is more superior to another. Jimi Hendrix said it very well when he stated, ‘When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.’ I believe! e that is what Dr. King wanted as well. So let us rise together as a nation and make it happen.”

Price’s name was added to the traveling trophy, which will remain at Mount Vernon Academy for another year. She also won a $100 savings bond.—Tina Stevenson

Volunteers Needed to Visit the Blind, Assist at Camp Meetings
With the 2012 camp meeting season only a few months away, Christian Record Services for the Blind is calling for volunteers to assist in literature giveaways at exhibits planned for the events, as well as to form two-person teams to visit blind persons areas where camp meetings are being held. To volunteer, contact Pastor Mauri Bascom at maurib@verizon.net or at (410) 531-5294.—Rajmund Dabrowski

Pennsylvania Conference Member Ministers Through Counseling
Over 18 percent of Americans are diagnosed with an anxiety disorder in their lifetimes. Over nine percent are diagnosed with depression. Some 36,000 Americans commit suicide each year. “Mental health outreach is needed, relevant and a fabulous part of the ‘right arm’ of the gospel,” says Jennifer Jill Schwirzer, a licensed professional counselor and a member of the Pennsylvania Conference’s Chestnut Hill church. She has been sharing her seminar “Finding Peace” since her newest book, 13 Weeks to Peace came out in 2011. She says, “The book is my counseling practice on paper—the things that have proven effective in a clinical setting. I address common problems such as depression, anxiety, addiction, guilt, blame and loneliness, all from a solidly biblical standpoint but dr! awing also from current scientific research.”

Come meet Schwirzer and other members of the Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI) at the upcoming union convention March 8-11. The event will be held at the Vienna (Va.) church. Click here to register.

UPCOMING EVENTS
March 22: Park Adventist School Open House runs from 9-11 a.m. This school for pre-schoolers thru 10th-graders, is located at 3942 Alabama Avenue, SE, in Washington, D.C. They will have another open house on April 26. For more information about the school, call (202) 583-8500.

February 23: Sligo Adventist School will have an open house from 6–7 p.m. For more information, call (301) 434-1417 or visit Sligoadventistschool.org. The school is located at 8300 Carroll Avenue in Takoma Park, Md.

February 24-26: Chesapeake Conference’s high school students will want to attend the Generation Rain Spiritual Retreat at Mount Aetna Camp and Retreat Center in Hagerstown, Md. Themed “The Call,” the weekend features speakers from Insight magazine: Duane Esmond, editor; Tom Fraga, associate editor; and Tiffany Taylor-Mduba, columnist. For details, call Ann Reynolds at (410) 995-1910, or email areynolds@ccosda.org.

February 24-26, 2012: Pennsylvania Conference’s marriage retreat, “Love on the Farm” will feature Claudio and Pamela Consuegra, North American Division Family Ministries directors. It will be held at the Best Western Premier Conrail Hotel and Conference Center in Harrisburg, Pa. To register online visit, www.paconference.org, go to the Ministries page and click on Family Ministries. For more information, contact Jeanne Hartwell at jhartwell@paconference.org, or (610) 374-8331.

February 25: The Hagerstown church’s Sabbath Sundown Serenade Concert will feature Jermain Cain on the three-manual Digital Allen Organ. The concert starts at 5 p.m. and will be held at 11507 Robinwood Drive, in Hagerstown, Md. For more information, call (301) 733-4411. To request a copy of the Winter-Spring 2012 Hagerstown Sabbath Serenade Concert Calendar, send your email address to office@hagerstownadventist.org.

February 25: The New England Youth Ensemble will recognize the ministry of Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse with a tribute concert. Soprana Karla Bucklew will also perform. The concert will take place at 4 p.m. at the Frederick church at 6437 Jefferson Pike in Frederick, Md. For more information, visit fredericksdachurch.org or call (301) 662-5254.

February 25: The Seventh Annual Living Legends Award for Service to Humanity will take place on Saturday, February 25th at 6 p.m. at the Emmanuel-Brinklow church
located at 18800 New Hampshire Avenue in Ashton, Md. This year’s awardees are Barry Black, chaplain of the United States Senate; Dennis Banks, founder of AIM (American Indian Movement); and Bob Zellner, a civil rights activist. All are invited to attend. For more information, visit http://www.emmanueladventist.org.

February 25: Washington Adventist University’s Russian Bible Translation Project Event will take place at the Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md. The daylong event will include inspiring Russian music, fellowship and prayer. Mikhail Kulakov, a WAU religion professor, will preach a sermon titled “When Life is Worth Living.” Russian soloist Elena Rudoy will perform in the church atrium at 4 p.m. For more information, contact Kulakov at (301) 576-0108 or at mkulakov@wau.edu.

February 26: Looking for a job? Get help making sure your résumé is top notch. From 1-3 p.m., job seekers can have their résumés reviewed by human resource professionals, free of charge at the Emmanuel-Brinklow church. Visit www.emmanuelbrinklow.org to register.

March 2: Metro Area Adventist Young Adults (MAAYA) would like to invite you out for “First (1st) Fridays” on March 2 at 7:30 p.m. In conjunction with the Howard University Adventist Student Organization and 4Him Drama Ministry, they will present a dramatic interpretation of God’s Word and His plan for our salvation. First Fridays will be held at the First church, which is located at 810 Shepherd Street, NW, in Washington, D.C. For more information, contact Anthony Barnes at (301) 204-7059 or Trevor Fraser at (909) 648-4955.

March 8-11: The Columbia Union chapter of the Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI) convention will feature Ivor Myers, speaker/director of Power of the Lamb Ministries; the Guild of Adventist Musicians and Henry Wright, pastor of the Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va. The convention will be held at Potomac Conference’s Vienna (Va.) church, located at 344 Courthouse Road SW in Vienna. For more information visit www.asicolumbiaunion.netasi.org or register at www.plusline.org.

March 10: Kelly Mowrer Presents “Into His Presence With Praise” on Sabbath morning at 11 a.m. at the Staunton (Va.) church at 1000 North Coalter Street. You are invited to come renew your faith through beautiful music and stories of beloved hymns. An inspiring speaker, pianist and recording artist, Mowrer travels in full-time ministry telling of God’s great grace and love. She also hosts two television programs, Praise and His Words Are Life. For more information, call (540) 886-8081.

March 15: Vienna Adventist Academy’s Open House will start at 6 p.m. Vienna
Adventist Academy is a private, Christian school that educates children from pre-kindergarten through 8th-grade. They are located at 340 Courthouse Road, SW, in Vienna, Va. For more information, visit www.viennaadventistacademy.org, call (703)938-6200 or send an email to viennaadventistacademy@gmail.com.

March 22: Dupont Park Adventist School Open House runs from 9-11 a.m. This school for pre-schoolers thru 10th-graders, is located at 3942 Alabama Avenue, SE, in Washington, D.C. They will have another open house on April 26. For more information about the school, call (202) 583-8500.

April 15: Kettering College’s Fourth Annual Spring Into Health 5K Run/Walk starts at 2 p.m. at the college (3737 Southern Boulevard in Kettering, Ohio). Registration and packet pick-up begins at 1 p.m. in front of the school. The cost is just $25 for participants registering before Wednesday, April 4, and the first 250 registrants are guaranteed a T-shirt. More information and a link to online registration can be found at KC.edu/5K.

Having trouble viewing this email? Click here to read it online. For more news and up-to-date information from the Columbia Union Conference, visit columbiaunion.org

Forward to a Friend or Subscribe

To share the Visitor News Bulletin with friends and church members across the Columbia Union, click the “Forward to a Friend” link below so all the photos and copy will appear correctly. Also, encourage them to sign up for the email at www.columbiaunion.org/emailnews. Thank you!

Stay Connected:

Taashi Rowe, Visitor News Bulletin Editor
5427 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045
Email: visitor@columbiaunion.net Website: www.columbiaunion.org

Visitor News Bulletin is an electronic newsletter published by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Columbia Union Conference. You are free to reprint any portion of the bulletin, however, please identify Visitor News Bulletin as the source.
Columbia Union Garners Four Health Awards

Story by Visitor Staff
Published 2/23/2012

The Columbia Union Conference’s entities recently won four health awards at the North American Division’s (NAD) Health Summit in Florida. They won after rising to a challenge that Katia Reinert, NAD’s Health Ministries director issued to Seventh-day Adventists all across the division last year: get active. The result? Seventh-day Adventist Church members reported some 2 million miles of physical activity! At their recent health summit in Florida, the division recognized organizations with outstanding participation in what they call the Adventists InStep for Life initiative.

The Columbia Union received an award for having the largest number of community gardens and participation rates—topping eight other unions. They garnered the second most miles out of all the unions. The union is also home to Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary in New Market, Va.—the school with the highest miles and participation rates in the entire division. They had 739 miles of physical activity or about 175.53 percent participation!

Allegheny East, one of the union’s eight conferences, was recognized for having the highest participation rates, most community gardens and most physical activity miles in all the Columbia Union. It also came in second in the division for its numbers of gardens, miles and participation rates. A. Leah Scott, the conference’s Health Ministries director, also accepted a second award, this time on behalf of the Pine Forge church.

The union’s Kettering Adventist HealthCare, based in Kettering, Ohio, also received an award in recognition of the number of miles and for the percentage of employee participation compared to other health systems across the division.

Click here to learn how Allegheny East topped the union’s seven other conferences.

CORRECTION: This story was updated on February 27, 2012. We incorrectly stated that the Columbia Union Conference had the most physical activity miles. We actually had the second most physical activity miles—213,768.
Dan Jackson, NAD president, presents an award to Leah Scott (right), Health Ministries director of the Allegheny East Conference while Regina Benjamin, MD, U.S. Surgeon General, looks on.

Katia Reinert, NAD Health Ministries director, spearheaded the Let's Move Day initiative.
For the past 16 years, the Potomac Conference’s Hispanic Evangelism Festival has drawn pastors and laypeople interested in learning how to better share the gospel with the world. This year’s festival, held February 9-12 in Ocean City, Md., drew 2,500 from other conferences such as Allegheny East, Allegheny West, Chesapeake and Mountain View. Reflecting the theme, “The Sanctuary … a Place of Hope,” there was a life-sized replica of the biblical sanctuary furniture. Here are some photos from the event:

Attendees see replicas of the biblical sanctuary furniture up close.

There were 120 graduates from the conference’s School of Theology.

Pastor Angel Barrios, who pastors the Glenmont, Germantown, Gaithersburg I...
and Gaithersburg II Spanish churches baptizes a new member.

José D. Esposito is director for the Potomac Conference’s Hispanic Ministries.

Bill Miller is president of the Potomac Conference.

Felipe Garibo shared special music throughout the festival.
Ismael Castillo, a professor at Montemorelos University in Mexico, leads a seminar.

Juan Sanchez and Jose Ortiz, members of the Capital Spanish church in Washington, D.C., and Washington Spanish church in Silver Spring, Md., respectively, built and assembled replicas of furniture from the biblical sanctuary.
A praise team leads out during Sabbath worship.